

Do You Ask Your Doctor as Many Questions as You Ask your Mechanic?

When your car needs a test or maintenance you usually ask questions before authorizing the work, such as:

- › What exactly will you be doing?
- › What is the cost?
- › What is the benefit of the test?
- › How will I know it worked?
- › *Plus a million more!*

But what about when your doctor orders a test? Do you ask the same kind of questions? Do you always know what the test is for and what it will tell you before you have it?

Asking your doctor questions before a test makes sense. Here are just a few questions you may want to ask:

- › Why do I need a test?
- › How is the test done?
- › Will the test hurt?
- › What kind of information will the test provide?
- › Is this test the only way to find out the information?
- › What are the benefits and risks of having the tests?
- › How long will it take to get the results, and how will I get them?
- › What's the next step after that?



What about cost?

One other important question to know the answer to is “What will it cost?”. One way to find the answer to that is by using the *QualityCounts*[®] Outpatient Procedures and Tests Report.

This report provides the median cost of common outpatient tests and procedures and the high and low range at facilities in The Alliance network. Using these figures, you can see how cost may vary from one provider to another and learn about how much a test or procedure may cost.

You can access the complete report by visiting www.the-alliance.org and clicking on the *QualityCounts* logo. You'll be asked to log in. Once you do you'll find more information about the costs of the procedures and more questions to ask on page 45.



You can also connect to the *QualityCounts* reports through Find A Doctor at www.the-alliance.org/find_doctor.aspx