

Disciplined Doctors

Here are some resources for finding and learning about doctors and hospitals:

To find out if your doctor is board certified, contact the American Board of Medical Specialties at 1-800-776-2378.

Complaints against physicians are public information if they result in a final disciplinary action. To learn if a physician has been disciplined, call OPMC at 1-800-663-6114 or access the Medical Conduct web site at www.health.state.ny.us (select *Information for Consumers*).

americastopdoctors.com: Find out whether the doctor has ever been disciplined with links to other web sites.

bestdoctors.com: Database of doctors recommended by other doctors.

ama-assn.org: Find a doctor or look up his or her credentials.

abms.org: Find out whether your doctor is certified in a recognized medical specialty.

healthgrades.org: Rates hospitals for various procedures.

questionabledoctors.org: Data on doctors disciplined by state medical boards.

docinfo.org: Access to disciplinary reports from state medical boards.

docboard.org: Licensing background and disciplinary information on physicians.

Log onto www.op.nysed.gov/ Scroll down to on-line license verification and enter #60 for physicians Scroll down to Office of Professional Medical Conduct. Double click, and scroll down and click on physician search. Enter name.

Go back to the home page where you originally found your doctor's name and license information. Then scroll down to the American Medical Association (AMA) "Physician Select—Doc Finder". Double click. Enter your doctor's name and you will get the school attended, year graduated, where affiliated, and board certification.

Questionable doctors. This publication by the Public Citizen Health Research Group includes information, updated periodically, on disciplinary actions taken against specific physicians in 27 states. The web site is www.questionabledoctors.org. "Questionable Doctors" is advertised as the only comprehensive, publicly available databank that contains information on doctors who have been disciplined by state medical boards and federal agencies in the

past ten years. In addition to disciplinary actions by the state medical board, the number of sanctioned doctors in a state includes actions taken by the Medicare/Medicaid programs, the Food and Drug Administration, and the Drug Enforcement Agency against physicians located in the selected state.

Credentialing requirements. These are issued by and available from the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO). Plaintiff lawyers can access the requirements at www.jcaho.org.

Nydoctorprofile.com: complete educational, professional and board certification history is listed.

DisciplinedDoctors.com

Healthgrades.com

Medicalconsumers.org

www.nydoctorprofile.com/welcome.jsp

To verify certification, call the American Board of Medical Specialists at 800-776-2378.

Find out if a physician has been disciplined by calling the state medical board.

The National Practitioner Data Bank in Washington, D.C. is a compilation of the federal government that contains nationwide listings of malpractice judgments and disciplinary citations.

You can also use KnowX.com to verify whether and where experts such as accountants, engineers, and physicians are licensed. These professionals may not list states where they have had licensing problems.

Several web sites, such as www.malpracticedepositions.com, provide deposition transcripts for free.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission site (www.cpsc.gov) contains information on product recalls.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration site (www.nhtsa.dot.gov) lists vehicle recall notices dating back to 1966.

For medical research, try Infotrieve (www4.infotrieve.com), which gives you free access to Medline, a comprehensive medical research database.

www.nlm.nih.gov: health information organized by topic.