

VENICE PLASTIC SURGERY

A.E. HAAS, M.D.

Cosmetic, Reconstructive, Face, Breast, and Hand Surgery

Having a Family Physician

Everyone should have a family doctor at all times here and up north. If you need medical care finding a new doctor may be a month or two wait, sometimes even longer. The family doctor will have your records. If you are in this town half the time there is a 50 percent chance you will need a doctor here. Wherever you are when medical problems develop a doctor familiar with you is best.

When a patient comes to my office for the first time we ask if you have a regular doctor in town. If you do not have one we ask that you find one. This is part of how we make sure you get good medical care, not just for the current problem but for the rest of your life. Preventative and maintenance health care are life long issues. We will all develop health problems. The more prepared we are for the situation the easier and better the treatment.

Your doctors should be lined up to serve you if needed. It is like everything else, being prepared. Regular check ups are a must. Many patients think that they can feel themselves as they develop an illness. This is only partly true. For example you cannot feel your blood pressure go up. Many people become disabled or die needlessly each year because of blood pressure out of control. It can usually be controlled easily with medications. A simple yearly physical exam can pick up a lot of medical conditions early thereby minimizing bigger problems later.

What doctors are usually best for this? Most internal medical and family practice doctors accept patients into their practice for specific treatments or just for yearly exams. For younger folks there are pediatric specialists and for the older folks there are geriatric specialty doctors that may have additional insights. Even the independent walk in doctor clinics are of benefit if you go to the same one every time.

I do not recommend the hospital emergency room doctors for long term care or yearly physical exams. The problem is that it is usually a different doctor every visit. Consistency with a single doctor is always better.

For those who are new in town finding a doctor may be a challenge. Many doctor's offices are already full. The hospital referral service is a place to call, check the phone book. Speak to your friends and neighbors. What doctors are they seeing? What have they heard about other doctors?

When choosing you may wonder if the new doctor just out of school is better or the older one with more experience. I have heard patients say the new one is better because they know more, being just out of training. Actually this may be true but older doctors who keep up and take courses may know just as much. Keeping up is actually required to maintain your medical license in this state.

There are definite benefits to being more experienced, or having a doctor who has studied at a famous training program. Still, I feel that book training does not make the doctor. A combination of training, experience, working well with patients and spending time with them all count in making a better doctor.

Being a good patient is also part of the process. Those who try to hide medical information or are unwilling to cooperate cannot get the best care. Medical care is a two way street. Help the doctor and they will serve you better. Speak freely and give out all medical and even social information. You may not think it is important but in fact it may be a major contributor in your care.

The above represents the opinion of A. E. Haas, M.D.

Venice Plastic Surgery, Venice Wound Center, Lakeside Medical Center

Just call us directly. No referral needed unless required by your insurance company

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