



## DOCTOR APPOINTMENT CHECKLIST

### Chapter 12 of *The Complete Eldercare Planner*

**Elder:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of Appointment:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Doctor:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Doctor address, phone, email:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Doctor Hospital Affiliation:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Quality Care Checklist

- ✓ Ask what unfamiliar words mean
- ✓ Keep asking questions until what is being said is understood
- ✓ Repeat what the doctor tells in your own words to uncover any misunderstandings
- ✓ Ask for copies of medical records, charts and test results
- ✓ Ask if there is a choice in hospitals if surgery is recommended
- ✓ Ask about the cost if that is of concern

**Ask these questions about the illness**

- ✓ *Does this illness have a name?*
- ✓ *What caused this illness?*
- ✓ *Do you personally have experience treating this illness or will you be recommending a specialist?*
- ✓ *What are the treatment options and related risks?*
- ✓ *Is this illness or pain likely to go away, get worse or recur?*
- ✓ *What is your track record/success rate in treating similar cases?*
- ✓ *What long-term lifestyle changes are expected?*

**Ask these questions if a test has been recommended**

- ✓ *What specifically do you hope to accomplish with this test?*
- ✓ *What are the risks involved with taking this test?*
- ✓ *What is the procedure?*
- ✓ *What are the chances of inaccurate test results?*
- ✓ *What happens if the test is not taken?*
- ✓ *What preparations are necessary ahead of time?*
- ✓ *Will personal assistance be necessary after the test?*
- ✓ *How long will it take to learn the test results?*
- ✓ *How will I be notified of the test results?*