

PHYSICIAN'S Q&A

Kertia Black, MD,
SEMTBIS Associate Project Director

Q How do I know which doctor I need to see - my rehabilitation doctor or my primary care physician?

Your rehabilitation doctor will help you with physical and mental problems which occurred as a result of your traumatic brain injury. Your primary care physician will help you with general medical problems such as diabetes, hypertension, etc. Your primary care physician will also monitor your general health and work with you to prevent illness and address other health concerns. This is why we hope you will have periodic health check-ups by your primary care physician so you can stay in the best health possible. It is often easier to work to stay healthy than to treat a condition once it has started.

Q When do I need to make an appointment with my rehab doctor?

You need to make an appointment when you are having severe and persistent pain or neurologic changes (including seizures). Also, if you want to receive follow up care on a problem treated in the past. Call the scheduling department at (313) 745-1160 to set up an appointment.



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Q Who do I contact if I need to refill a prescription?

First determine if there are any remaining refills. You can either call the pharmacy (the telephone number is on your prescription bottle) or often the number of refills is written on the prescription bottle. It is best to call your doctor a couple of weeks before you are scheduled to take your last pill so you don't run out of medication. If it is a new prescription, your doctor will want to know how you are doing on it. Are you taking it as prescribed and does it seem to work for you? Are your symptoms better? There are times your doctor may want to see you before refilling a prescription, so it is very important you call in advance so you never have to run out of a medication.

Kertia Black, MD, joined the psychiatry staff at Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan (RIM) in 1993. A medical graduate of Hahnemann University, Dr. Black is chief of staff at RIM. She is involved in many of the TBI research activities and is an assistant professor at Wayne State University School of Medicine.