

# WHAT IS A DIAGNOSIS?



Making a diagnosis — finding an explanation for your child’s health problem — is a process, and **we are your partners in the diagnostic process.** The healthcare team may not be certain about your child’s diagnosis right away, and they may be considering multiple options.

## Words we may use:

- **Diagnosis:** the underlying cause of your child’s symptoms
- **Differential diagnoses:** a list of possible diagnoses being considered
- **Working diagnosis:** the most likely diagnosis

## HOW CAN I LEARN MORE ABOUT MY CHILD’S DIAGNOSIS?

### Ask questions!

#### About the diagnosis:

- What is the diagnosis?
- What else could be going on?
- How did you arrive at this diagnosis?

#### About next steps:

- What is the current treatment plan?
- Are there other options?
- What happens if we “wait and see?”
- What are the risks?

## HOW CAN I BE AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE DIAGNOSTIC TEAM?

### You are the expert on your child.

Let us know if something is off or different in your child’s symptoms or behavior.

Every detail is important. You can keep track of your child’s symptoms:

- On paper or in the notes app on your phone
- With pictures and videos that you show to your care team

### Daily Rounds

- Each day, the medical team will meet to check in with you and discuss the care plan.
- If large groups can be overwhelming, let us know.
- For more tips on getting the most out of daily rounds, visit [chop.edu/rounds](https://chop.edu/rounds) or scan this QR code:



## WHAT IF I HAVE A CONCERN OR NEED MORE SUPPORT?

It is natural to feel overwhelmed when your child is in the hospital. It can be a lot to process and understand.

It's OK not to feel OK about a diagnosis.

You can use the call button to contact your care team and ask a member to:



Repeat information with less medical language



Connect you with a **social worker** for help with coping, advocacy or other resources



Call **interpreters** (1-877-463-7907) to translate into your preferred language or ASL



Consult with a **child life specialist** to help explain the diagnosis to your child and siblings



Request a **MyCHOP code** to gain access your child's electronic medical record



Let us know if you're worried that your child's condition has changed



## WHAT ABOUT SCHOOL AND WORK?

- You can ask for an excuse note from your bedside nurse.
- A social worker can work with your child's school to support their changing needs.
- If you need to take a longer time off of work, your medical team can help with paperwork.



## SHARE YOUR FEEDBACK TO HELP US IMPROVE

- You can contact the Office of Feedback by emailing [FamilyRelations@chop.edu](mailto:FamilyRelations@chop.edu) or calling **267-426-6983**. You can be anonymous.
- If something doesn't feel right, say something to a member of the care team right away.
- Scan this QR code or visit [chop.edu/patient-safety](http://chop.edu/patient-safety) to read *Patient Safety: Tips for Families* for more information.



Scan this QR code for a digital version.

**NOTES AND QUESTIONS**

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## SYMPTOM TRACKER (optional)

Date and Time	Concern	How Bad or Urgent?	Notes
/ / ___am/pm	___Pain ___Discomfort ___Worry ___Change	      0 2 4 6 8 10	
/ / ___am/pm	___Pain ___Discomfort ___Worry ___Change	      0 2 4 6 8 10	
/ / ___am/pm	___Pain ___Discomfort ___Worry ___Change	      0 2 4 6 8 10	
/ / ___am/pm	___Pain ___Discomfort ___Worry ___Change	      0 2 4 6 8 10	
/ / ___am/pm	___Pain ___Discomfort ___Worry ___Change	      0 2 4 6 8 10	
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/ / ___am/pm	___Pain ___Discomfort ___Worry ___Change	      0 2 4 6 8 10	
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