

## FAQs About the Clinical Summary

### What Is a Clinical Summary?

The Clinical Summary gives you the most important information about what happened during your office visit or hospital stay. It will also give you helpful information about any next steps you may need to take for your health.

### When Will I Get It?

Your healthcare provider will give you your Clinical Summary at the end of your office visit or hospital stay.

### Why Do I Need It?

The Clinical Summary is easy to refer to later if you forgot some important information, such as the name of a new medication, when to make your next appointment, or other instructions from your doctor.

### What Do I Do With It?

Take the Clinical Summary home and file it with your other important medical papers. Check to make sure the information is correct. You may want to refer to this information later. You also can share the Clinical Summary with your family members.

### Why Am I Getting a Paper Copy?

You may have heard that doctors are trying to use more technology and less paper in healthcare. This is true, but the Clinical Summary is an exception. It can be helpful to have something in hand to take home with you. Over time, this information should be available through a patient portal, which is a Web page where you can access your medical information. But until then, the paper copy of the Clinical Summary provides you with some of your medical information.



### Tips for Using the Clinical Summary

- Review the Clinical Summary**  
Make sure you understand all the information.
- Ask questions**  
Ask your healthcare provider if something isn't clear.
- Check for any next steps**  
Check for information about follow-up appointments or other instructions you need to follow.
- Keep the Clinical Summary**  
This information may be useful for future reference.

For more information on  
Clinical Summaries visit  
[www.healthit.gov](http://www.healthit.gov)