



Johns Hopkins Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery Medical Second Opinion Program

Frequently Asked Questions

Why get a medical second opinion?

A medical second opinion is a valuable resource when you are faced with difficult health circumstances or choices regarding your treatment options. Second opinions are quite common throughout the health care industry and are frequently utilized by treating physicians to assist in providing the best care possible for their patients.

Depending on where you live, your availability for travel or your mobility, you may have limited access to highly specialized care. The Johns Hopkins Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery Medical Second Opinion Program provides timely medical opinions on ear, nose and throat conditions from leading experts without requiring you to spend time and money on traveling. The Johns Hopkins Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery has consistently been ranked the #1 ear, nose and throat program in the United States by *U.S. News & World Report*.

Other reasons for considering a medical second opinion from Johns Hopkins Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery include:

- Assistance in selecting the best treatment option for your condition
- Learning more information about other treatment options available for your condition
- Confirmation of your physician's treatment recommendation

Do I need my physician's permission to request a medical second opinion?

Yes. The service that Johns Hopkins Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery offers is designed to complement the care you receive from your local, licensed physician. Johns Hopkins desires to preserve that relationship, as well as the relationship between the Johns Hopkins physician and your physician. We also believe the benefits of your medical second opinion are maximized when your local physician is included in the communication of the assessment and opinion. Additionally, many states require the involvement of your treating physician when consulting with an out-of-state physician. In an effort to adhere to state laws, Johns Hopkins requires your physician's permission.

How much does a medical second opinion cost?

The cost of a Johns Hopkins Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery Medical Second Opinion is \$550.

- If a Pathology interpretation is required, there is an additional cost of \$250.
- If a Radiology interpretation is required, there is an additional cost of \$250.

Payment is due at the time of the request. Major credit cards (MasterCard, Visa, American Express and Discover) are the accepted means of payment. A receipt for services will be mailed to you after payment is received.

Does my health insurance cover a medical second opinion?

The Johns Hopkins Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery Medical Second Opinion Program is a self-pay service. At this time, most health plans do not cover a medical second opinion, although there is increasing interest in doing so. You may contact your insurance carrier to inquire of your benefit coverage for a medical second opinion; however, Johns Hopkins Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery will not file a claim with your insurance carrier.

How do I request a medical second opinion?

For instructions on how to request a Johns Hopkins Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery Medical Second Opinion, please visit our web site at www.hopkinsmedicine.org/otolaryngology.

Can I cancel my request for a medical second opinion?

Once your credit card has been charged and work has begun on reviewing your medical history to render an opinion, we cannot cancel your request to discontinue your second opinion. Please let us know if there are extenuating circumstances.

Is my state excluded from the medical second opinion program?

We cannot offer medical second opinions to patients who are residents of or have current mailing addresses in **Iowa, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, New York, and North Dakota**. Johns Hopkins Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery abides by state laws governing the practice of medicine in these states.

If you are a resident of one of these states and wish to have a second opinion from a Johns Hopkins otolaryngologist, we are happy to assist you in making an appointment to be seen at one of our offices in the Baltimore metropolitan area. Please call 410-735-4872.

Does Johns Hopkins provide a medical second opinion to residents outside of the United States?

All international requests are coordinated by Johns Hopkins International Patient Services; please visit www.jhintl.org for more information.

Will my medical records and radiological (x-ray) films or pathology specimens be returned?

X-ray films/scans will be returned to you via overnight courier within two weeks of the completion of your medical second opinion. Paper medical records will not be returned; this is why we advise you to make copies before sending them to Johns Hopkins.

Where should I send my medical records, x-rays, pathological slides, and paraffin blocks?

All materials and correspondence should be sent to:

Johns Hopkins Medicine
Attn: Medical Second Opinion Team
5801 Smith Avenue, Suite 305
Baltimore, MD 21209-3611
Phone: 410-735-4339