



To: Class of M'2020

From: Augustus Colangelo, MD
Course Director, Physical Diagnosis

Date: June 2016

Subject: Medical Equipment

Welcome to Tufts University School of Medicine. You begin Physical Diagnosis during the Foundations of Patient Care unit beginning in the late fall. During this course, you will learn how to do basic physical examinations. In order that you have ample time to purchase the equipment for this course, we will hold an introductory equipment lecture, and the school has a live demonstration fair of the equipment.

Basic equipment is **mandatory** for this course. You will be examined on your ability to use the equipment to perform physical examination tasks. You will need a stethoscope (popular brands are Littman and Welch Allyn/Harvey), and will need access to an ophthalmoscope/otoscope (also called a diagnostic set - popular brands of these instruments are Heine and Welch Allyn), reflex hammer, tuning fork (128 and 512 Hertz), and pocket penlight. Although a blood pressure cuff (sphygmomanometer) is not mandatory, it will be valuable to practice this skill outside of a clinic setting and to use during some Selective programs (popular brands are Heine and Welch Allyn/Tycos).

Because group ordering can cut prices on expensive instruments, you will have an opportunity to attend a demonstration on the equipment and place an order with a local distributor. Assume that the instruments you buy now will be yours for many years to come. They often last a lifetime.

Attached is a price list for equipment that will be offered from the distributor. When you receive the list, please take the opportunity to go over the list, comparison shop, and research the equipment on the web so you feel comfortable making your purchasing decisions. If you live in the vicinity of a medical equipment store, you may want to pay a visit and begin to get the feel of these instruments and ask questions. This is especially true for stethoscopes, which are more personal than the other instruments and which will need to fit your head and ear canals.

You are not obligated to purchase from the distributor; many students are able to find good pricing or other brands of equipment on-line. You must, however, have this equipment when the class begins in November.

I look forward to meeting you. Have a wonderful summer!