CHECK-ENGINE DIAGNOSTICS / 01

BUILD THE OBSERVATION TIMELINE

Use ordinary language and neutral labels. Do not diagnose, interpret a code or record vehicle identifiers.

A helpful preparation resource from PickYourPro.ai. Fill in digitally or print. Keep your completed copy private.

Vehicle A / year and model-family label / no VIN or plate

Warning state / steady, intermittent or no longer visible / observed only

First noticed / date range or trip stage / no exact location

Operating change observed / plain language / no diagnosis

Other warning observed / label only / provider to assess

Prior Record A / category, date and custodian / no contents

Preparation only. Not diagnosis, repair, emissions, inspection, warranty, recall, driving-safety or legal advice. Keep identifiers and trouble codes private.

CHECK-ENGINE DIAGNOSTICS / 02

SEPARATE DIAGNOSIS FROM REPAIR

Ask the provider to define each step. A diagnostic authorization is not a blanket repair approval.

Provider A / appointment or proposal reference / date

Initial diagnostic scope / provider-stated inclusions

Diagnostic stop point / what requires another approval

Findings format / written record or explanation expected

Repair proposal boundary / work not yet authorized

Change route / approver, communication method and record

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CHECK-ENGINE DIAGNOSTICS / 03

CHECK THE DIAGNOSTIC PACKET

Tick what is organized. These checks do not determine cause, urgency, emissions status or safety.

- [ ] Vehicle A contains no VIN, plate, address or owner identity
- [ ] Observations are separated from suspected causes
- [ ] Trouble codes and scan results are kept outside the workbook
- [ ] Prior records are listed only by category and date
- [ ] Initial diagnostic scope and stop point are requested
- [ ] Provider findings are requested before repair approval
- [ ] Added testing and repair work have a change-approval route
- [ ] No safe-to-drive or emissions conclusion is recorded

Open observation question / Provider A to assess

Open scope or authorization question / proposal reference

Open finding or record-handoff question / responsible role

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CHECK-ENGINE DIAGNOSTICS / 04

QUESTIONS FOR THE REPAIR PROVIDER

Ask every provider the same observation, diagnostic-scope, findings and authorization questions.

Scope: what does your initial diagnostic authorization include?

Records: what private information is useful and how should it be shared?

Findings: what written explanation, limits and unresolved items will I receive?

Urgency: how will you communicate provider findings and next-step timing?

Changes: what needs separate approval before added testing or repair?

Closeout: which findings, authorizations and work records will be delivered?

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CHECK-ENGINE DIAGNOSTICS / 05

COMPARE DIAGNOSTIC PROPOSALS

Use Providers A and B with the same neutral observation brief. Clarify differences before authorizing work.

Providers A / B / proposal references / dates

Initial diagnostic scope, limits and stop points - A / B

Findings format, urgency communication and change route - A / B

Repair-approval boundary, records and unresolved questions - A / B

READY TO HEAR FROM PROS?

Create an account on PickYourPro.ai only if you choose, then start an Auto Repair request for check-engine diagnostics. Share only a non-sensitive Vehicle A, observed-warning and diagnostic-scope brief so participating pros can compete with proposals. Compare written diagnostic scope, findings format, authorization steps, timing and fit. A provider-led vehicle and private-record review may be needed before a final proposal.

One request. Every pro's best offer.

Start a request

Participation varies. A provider-led vehicle, observation and private-record review may be needed before a final diagnostic or repair proposal.

Planning guide: https://www.pickyourpro.ai/services/auto-repair/check-engine-diagnostics

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - What to do with the Check Engine Light (official reference)

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