Doctor's Orders
"Ten Things to Consider Before You Decide to Jump Ship"

1. Figure out what you really want out of your work as critical first step
   - Many people have never taken the time to look inward at what makes them happy
   - Think about the critical aspects of work that are most important to YOU
   - If you don't know yourself…you won't know a good job when you see it

2. Focus in on exactly those things you dislike about your current job.
   - Is it the work environment? Your boss? The actual work you are doing?
   - Ask yourself if you honestly feel you can find better circumstances elsewhere
   - Make sure YOU & YOUR ATTITUDE are not the real problem – or you are destined to repeat past sins

3. Make a list of the top 10 things you want in your next job
   - Make top 5 items your highest priority "deal breakers"
   - Be prepared to compromise on items 6 – 10
   - Be realistic about your list of demands – make sure they can actually be found elsewhere

4. Don't be afraid to speak up and confront your boss
   - Today's Gen X and Gen Y have certainly discovered this fact
   - Sit down with your supervisor and discuss your expectations for your job
   - Make open and ongoing dialog/communication with your boss and subordinates a priority

5. Make sure you have the right reasons for wanting to leave your current job
   - Separate real deep rooted incompatibilities from petty little differences of opinion
   - Realize making a job change can be very disruptive to you, your family and your career
   - Do a thorough assessment of yourself, your company and your personal career ambitions FIRST

6. Don't let your haste to jump ship cause you to overlook potential problems at a new firm
   - Go into job interviews with an open eye
   - Do your homework on company financial and competitive situation – make sure they are stable
   - Ask insiders and outsiders (with inside knowledge) their opinions of best and worst of new company

7. Don't sell corporate culture short as a predictor of job satisfaction
   - Most people leave jobs due to cultural incompatibility – not inability to do the job duties
   - Remember the people reflect the culture of their company - - take notice of them when interviewing

8. Never move to another company for MONEY only
   - Cash compensation has a funny way of evening itself out over time
   - What appeared to be a lot of $$$ initially will quickly fade in importance if you find you hate the culture
   - Making short term salary a priority is a fools game – focus on the more important challenge, cultural and upward potential issues associated with a new position

9. Remember today's career metrics – we will work for 10+ firms in our careers
   - Make sure each job trains & prepares you for the next one – never take a dead end job at no-name firm

10. Understand that the GRASS IS NOT ALWAYS GREENER …
    - Be realistic about your career – know what is really important to you and be prepared for change

The Career Doctors