

Choosing a Health Care Provider for Your Baby

Choosing a provider for your child is an important part of preparing for a new baby. This will be the person who manages your child's health from their first wellness visit through the teen years. Here are tips on how to find a health care provider.

Types of Primary Care Providers

Primary care providers may care for children from the time they are newborns until 21 years of age, or older. There are different types of primary care providers who care for babies. A pediatrician, family medicine doctor, physician's assistant and nurse practitioner can all be part of your baby's primary care health care team.

Your primary care team provides:

- Preventive health care, such as well visits, physicals, vaccines and screenings.
- Support, education and guidance for caregivers.
- Care for illnesses and injuries.
- Referrals to specialists as needed.

Pediatricians

Most pediatricians work with kids from infancy through late adolescence. Pediatricians treat a range of health problems in kids and are focused on pediatric and adolescent medicine.

Family Medicine Doctors

Family medicine doctors take care of patients of all ages, from kids to seniors. They are trained in many different areas of medicine which allows them to provide care through adulthood. They may also provide care to your entire family so they know your family's health history, as well.

How to Choose Your Primary Care Provider

Research

You should start looking for a health care provider about three months before your baby is due. Ask for suggestions from relatives, friends, neighbors, coworkers, and health care providers you know. Then, check your insurance company's website to see if the providers are covered by your plan.

For a complete list of UW Health Family Medicine and Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine providers that care for babies and kids, scan the QR code or visit

www.uwhealth.org/providers

and select the "Pediatrics" tab.

Please note, not all doctors are taking new patients so call to get an infant provider.



Location

Travel time to the office can be an important factor, especially if your child is sick. You should also check that the office hours work for your schedule.

Communication

You may want to ask how you can communicate with the provider, such as messaging through MyChart or via phone. Also, ask what options there are for after-hours questions.

Who to Call

Contact us if you need help finding a primary care provider for your baby.

Finding Care in Illinois

Patient Navigation Hub
(779) 696-7455

Finding Care in Wisconsin

Welcome Center by phone
(608) 821-4819

Scan the QR code to complete our brief Find a Primary Doctor form or visit uwhealth.org/findpcp



Your health care team may have given you this information as part of your care. If so, please use it and call if you have any questions. If this information was not given to you as part of your care, please check with your doctor. This is not medical advice. This is not to be used for diagnosis or treatment of any medical condition. Because each person's health needs are different, you should talk with your doctor or others on your health care team when using this information. If you have an emergency, please call 911. Copyright © 7/2023 University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics Authority. All rights reserved. Produced by the Department of Nursing HF#8294.