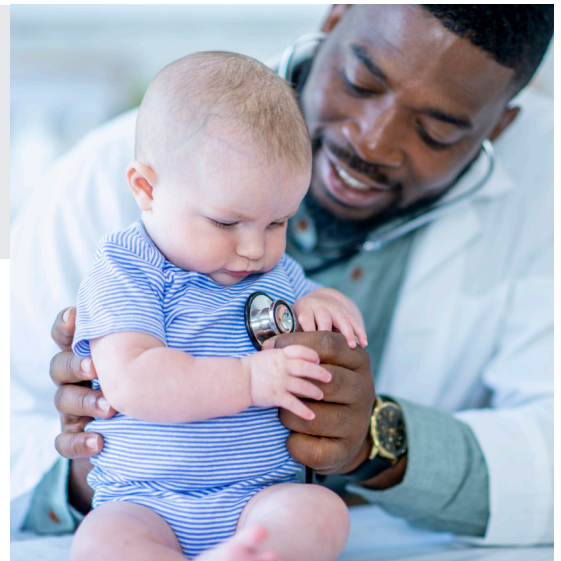


CHOOSING YOUR CHILD'S MEDICAL PROVIDER

Choosing a provider for your child is an important part of preparing for a new baby. There are many things to consider from training and experience to their office location, hours, and routines. Your baby's health care provider can be a pediatrician, family medicine doctor or nurse practitioner.



What is a Pediatrician? A pediatrician is a doctor who is trained to provide care for all children, from newborn to 18 years old. Some pediatricians have additional training in subspecialties like neonatal care, child cardiology, or other special problems.

What is a Family Practice Doctor? A family doctor is a doctor who is trained to provide care to all family members, from newborn to adults.

What is a Nurse Practitioner? A nurse practitioner (NP) diagnoses and treats acute, episodic, or chronic illness. These advanced practice nurses often work with other health care providers to bring a unique approach to care.

American Academy of Pediatrics: To learn more about the difference between pediatricians and other providers, read *Caring for Your Baby and Young Child Birth to Age 5* by the American Academy of Pediatrics. For more information, visit aap.org.

How to Begin: It is a good idea to begin searching for a pediatrician or other medical provider in the final months of pregnancy. Start by asking your family members, coworkers and friends for recommendations. Call a potential provider to see if they offer free meet-and-greet appointments so you can get to know them and their philosophy of care. Remember to bring along questions to ask. Sample questions include:

- Do you accept my insurance plan?
- Does your clinic offer same-day appointments?
- Can I call or email you with questions as they arise?
- What are your views on parenting styles, breastfeeding, immunizations, and circumcisions?

Where to Find a Doctor: Hospitals typically have a list of the providers authorized to provide care in their facility. To find a doctor within the St. Peter's Health Partners system, call **(877) 525-2227** or visit sphp.com.



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