

Choosing a Provider for My Baby

What is a Primary Care Provider (PCP)?

Your baby will need their own PCP to help make sure they keep being healthy after going home from the hospital. A PCP is trained in pediatric or family medicine. Your baby's PCP can be a pediatrician, which is someone who sees children and teens only. Or, they may be a Family Medicine Care Provider which is someone who sees people of all ages including children.

PCPs:

- Give regular medical care to your baby
- Answer health questions you may have about your baby
- Do tests to make sure your baby is healthy and growing well
- Find and treat common illnesses
- Give your baby the shots they will need

When should I start looking for a PCP/Pediatrician for my baby?

You should start looking for a PCP/pediatrician while pregnant. This gives you enough time to pick one without rushing. It also makes sure that you are able to get an appointment soon after your baby goes home from the hospital. In some clinics you may have to wait a long time to be seen.

How do I pick the right PCP for my baby?

If you can pick your PCP, think about the following tips to help you choose.

Tips for picking a PCP:

- Talk to friends, family, and other parents to see which PCPs they trust.
- Find a PCP who knows about local services and resources.
- Find a PCP who listens, speaks with you clearly, and is caring and friendly.
- Find a PCP who is available when you can see them and need them.

