

# Which doctor should I choose?

Birth

16

100+

## Pediatrician

Birth to age 18

### Focus

Specializes in the physical, mental and social health of children from birth to young adulthood

### Types

Primary care and subspecialists (e.g., pediatric cardiology, pediatric gastroenterology, etc.)

### Settings

Primary care office, hospital, clinic, etc.

### Services

Provide a broad spectrum of health services for children:

- Preventive care (e.g., routine checkups, immunizations)
- Growth milestones
- Diagnose and treat acute and chronic diseases/illnesses in children
- Behavioral health issues

### Education & Training

4 years of medical school, plus 3 years at an accredited pediatric residency program. Board certification by the American Board of Pediatrics. Optional 1-3 years of additional fellowship training to subspecialize.

## Internal medicine physician (internist)

Ages 16 and up

### Focus

Specializes in the diagnosis and medical (nonsurgical) treatment of adults

### Types

Primary care and subspecialists (e.g., cardiology, gastroenterology, hematology, medical oncology, rheumatology, etc.)

### Settings

Primary care office, hospital, clinic, nursing home, rehab center, etc.

### Services

Provide long-term, comprehensive care for adults:

- Preventive care (e.g., routine checkups, immunizations)
- Diagnose and treat acute and chronic diseases/illnesses in adults
- Behavioral health issues

### Education & Training

4 years of medical school, plus 3 years at an accredited general internal medicine residency program. Board certification by the American Board of Internal Medicine. Optional 1-3 years of additional fellowship training to subspecialize.

## Family medicine physician

All ages

### Focus

Specializes in continuing, comprehensive healthcare for all ages—from newborns to seniors

### Types

Primary care and subspecialists (e.g., sleep medicine, geriatric medicine, sports medicine, etc.)

### Settings

Primary care office, hospital, nursing home, urgent care center, etc.

### Services

Provide ongoing, integrated care for the entire family:

- Preventive care (e.g., routine checkups, immunizations)
- Diagnose and treat acute and chronic diseases/illnesses in all ages
- Behavioral health issues

### Education & Training

4 years of medical school, plus 3 years at an accredited family medicine residency program. Board certification by the American Board of Family Medicine. Optional 1-3 years of additional fellowship training to subspecialize.