

Choosing a Health Care Provider for Your Baby

Before you deliver your baby, you will need to choose a health care provider for your baby.

Questions to Ask Yourself

Ask yourself these questions before you choose:

- Where is the office or clinic located?
- Do they accept my health insurance?
- How is payment handled?
- What are the office hours?
- How are after hours calls or emergencies handled?
- Will they be willing to work with me and accept my ideas of child care?
- Are both well baby and sick child care available?

Choices for Your Baby's Care

- **Family medicine doctor** specializes in the care of adults and children. The doctor can provide care for your whole family.
- **Pediatric doctor (pediatrician)** specializes in the care of children from birth to age 18 or older.
- **Pediatric nurse practitioner** is a registered nurse with special training in the care of children. These nurses are able to prescribe medicine, and they usually work with doctors.

Talk with your own health care provider and check with family and friends for their recommendations. To find a list of providers in your area, you can call your local hospital's referral line or check their website. You can also get a list from your health insurance provider.

While you are still pregnant, make an appointment to meet your child's future health care provider. This visit will help you find out answers to many of your questions. It also gives you time to choose another provider if this one is not a good fit for you.