

# Which doctor should I choose?

Birth

18

60

100+

## Pediatrician

Age of patients:  
**Birth to 18**

### Emphasis

Prevent disease, maintain health and monitor growth and well-being. Also diagnose and treat illness and disease.

### Approach

Collaborate with parents, particularly when patients are babies and young children. Work collaboratively with other healthcare providers.

### Medical conditions and services

Vaccinations, nutritional guidance, illnesses and diseases, behavioral issues and growth milestones.

### Training

Board-certified in pediatric medicine.

## Family Physician

Age of patients:  
**Birth to 100+**

### Emphasis

Prevent, diagnose and treat a broad range of illnesses and diseases, and manage chronic conditions.

### Approach

Provide preventive and whole-person care, including education for patient and family about ways to improve wellness. Will refer to specialists for additional care.

### Medical conditions and services

Vaccines, preventive care, injuries, infections, illnesses, skin disorders and chronic conditions

### Training

Board-certified in family medicine and there may be emphasis in one or more areas such as pediatrics, obstetrics-gynecology, orthopaedics, urology and neurology.

## Internist

Age of patients:  
**18 to 100+**

### Emphasis

Prevent, diagnose and treat illnesses and manage chronic conditions and complex conditions.

### Approach

Diagnose and treat a variety of conditions. May have areas of specialized expertise, but also refer to specialists for additional care.

### Medical conditions and services

Broad range of infections, illness, disease and chronic conditions. Provide preventive healthcare.

### Training

Board-certified in internal medicine. May have additional emphasis in a subspecialty or gastroenterology.

## Geriatrician

Age of patients:  
**60 to 100+**

### Emphasis

Manage chronic and acute illnesses, including age-related conditions, with an emphasis on quality of life and helping patients function independently.

### Approach

Provide preventive and therapeutic care, working collaboratively with other care providers such as neurologists, psychiatrists, physical therapists and social workers.

### Medical conditions and services

Dementia, osteoporosis, arthritis, cancer, failure to thrive, and chronic illnesses such as diabetes and heart disease.

### Training

Board-certified in internal or family medicine with additional certification in geriatric medicine.

