

# Your Baby Needs a Doctor



Choosing a doctor for your baby is an important decision — one that you will need to make before the end of your pregnancy. While it is recommended that you find a doctor by your third trimester, it's never too early to start thinking about who will care for your newborn and help you and your baby off to a healthy start.

## Choosing a Doctor

There are two types of doctors who can care for your baby — family doctors and pediatricians.

### **Family Medicine**

A Family Medicine or Family Practice doctor is someone who can treat the whole family, regardless of age. This means your child can see the same doctor from birth to adulthood. Your entire family can also receive care from the same doctor. Many see this as an advantage as the family doctor will gain knowledge of your family's medical histories and issues that can affect your baby's health. Family doctors must complete four years of medical school and three years of residency. During residency, family doctors train in pediatrics and other areas such as orthopedics and obstetrics and gynecology.

### **Pediatrician**

A pediatrician is a doctor who specializes in the health care of children, from birth through adolescence. By focusing specifically on kids, they gain a lot of expertise about health issues of babies and children. Pediatricians complete four years of medical school, followed by three years of pediatric residency. They usually follow their patients until the age of 18; however, some may follow their patients longer.

## Questions to Ask

There is a lot to consider when choosing the right doctor. Here are some questions to ask when interviewing potential doctors for your baby:

- Does the clinic offer same-day appointments?
- How are after-hour calls handled?
- Is your doctor available by phone or e-mail for simple questions or is an appointment always necessary?
- Does the clinic use electronic medical records and is it able to easily transfer the files to a hospital in the event that your child is admitted to one?
- Does the doctor use a hospital with 24-hour coverage by in-house board-certified pediatricians?
- Does the office accept your insurance plans?
- Do you and the doctor have similar views on topics such as breastfeeding, immunizations, use of antibiotics and parenting issues?

## Consider a Swedish Doctor

At Swedish, we have a large number of board-certified family doctors and pediatricians who are available to care for your baby. And, with locations in Greater Seattle, the North end and the Eastside, there's a clinic conveniently located near you.

You can schedule a brief "meet and greet" visit for a chance to speak to our doctors one-on-one at no charge. (This is not a medical visit.) To view doctor profiles and learn more about each clinic, please visit the individual clinics' website.

## Why Swedish?

Some of the benefits that come with being a part of the Swedish primary-care network include:

- Online access to your doctor and your baby's medical records (up to the age 13). You can sign up for our free MyChart service, a secure tool that lets you use your computer or mobile device to get in touch with your baby's doctor by e-mail. You can also request prescription renewals and office appointments, view lab and imaging results, and review a summary of your baby's visits to the doctor. Never again will you have to call the doctor's office to get a copy of your child's immunization records.
- Seamless care within the entire Swedish network. If your child ever needs care at a Swedish emergency room, pediatric ER or hospital, or at our pediatric specialty clinics, his/her medical records will be instantly available electronically. That means information about medications, allergies and any other issues about your little one is just a click away.
- Great connections. Should your child need specialized care, our doctors can connect you to Swedish Pediatric Specialty Care — one of the most complete pediatric programs in the region. Our pediatric specialists are board-certified in a wide range of specialties and care for patients in outpatient clinics and in the hospital. From in-house pediatric intensive-care doctors to child-life specialists, we have more than 400 staff members dedicated to pediatric care. For a list of pediatric specialists, visit [www.swedish.org/pediatrics](http://www.swedish.org/pediatrics).

## Baby Needs A Doctor: Free Info Session

With so many doctors to choose from, finding the right one for your baby can be overwhelming. To help put you at ease, we're hosting free, one-hour sessions that will explain what you should look for in a doctor, what questions to ask, and what services to consider. You will be introduced to Swedish physicians who will answer your questions, share their philosophy of care, and provide tips on taking care of your newborn. This is a good opportunity to get to know the doctors and to find out if you're interested in establishing your baby's care with them. Sessions are offered throughout the year.

For dates and locations, call 206-215-3338 or visit [www.swedish.org/childbirthclasses](http://www.swedish.org/childbirthclasses).





**Swedish Primary Care**  
www.swedish.org/primarycare

**Seattle**

- 1 Ballard**  
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www.swedish.org/ballardclinic
- 2 Central Seattle**  
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www.swedish.org/centralseattleclinic
- 2 Cherry Hill**  
206-320-2484  
www.swedish.org/fammed
- 3 First Hill**  
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www.swedish.org/fammed
- 4 Downtown Seattle**  
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www.swedish.org/downtownseattleclinic

- 5 Greenlake**  
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www.swedish.org/greenlakeclinic
- 6 Magnolia**  
206-320-3364  
www.swedish.org/magnoliacclinic
- 7 Queen Anne**  
206-861-8500  
www.swedish.org/queenanneclinic
- 8 West Seattle**  
206-320-3399  
www.swedish.org/westseattleclinic
- 8 Children's Clinic (West Seattle)**  
206-320-5780  
www.swedish.org/childrensclinic

**Eastside**

- 9 Factoria**  
425-641-4000  
www.swedish.org/factoriacclinic
- 10 Issaquah**  
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- 11 Pine Lake**  
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- 12 Redmond**  
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www.swedish.org/redmondclinic
- 13 Snoqualmie**  
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**Northend**

- 14 Mill Creek**  
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Check out our Swedish Kids Symptom Checker, an online tool to help you get quick advice about what's ailing your child. Free mobile app also available for iPhone and Android.

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