

# **Choosing a Doctor for Baby**

### **Narrator**

Moms make many preparations when expecting a baby: they stock up on diapers, secure a car seat, and pack their hospital bag.

One thing not to overlook is choosing a pediatrician for your baby. A pediatrician is a doctor specializing in the medical care of children.

It's important to make sure you're comfortable with the doctor you choose by finding a good match for you and your family.

### **Kellen C. Gregori, MD, Pediatrician**

Choosing a pediatrician for your baby is one of the first most important decisions that a parent can make. It's very important to choose someone that you know you trust and that you really get along with because you'll be bringing your baby in very frequently for checkups in the first year of life.

### **Narrator**

This can take some investigating. Gather the names of some local doctors you want to research – family and friends or your obstetrician can be good sources of information.

Once you have a list of doctors, call their offices and/or visit their website to get some basic information, such as:

- Is the doctor accepting new patients?
- Is the doctor within my insurance plan?
- Are there any additional charges?
- What are the office hours?
- What happens if I have a question after hours?

If you like the answers, schedule an in-person interview with the doctor. Meeting someone face-to-face helps you better understand their personality and gives you a chance to check out the office space and staff.

Come prepared with a list of questions to ask the doctor, including:

- What happens if there's an emergency on the weekend or after hours?
- What hospital do you admit patients to?
- What is your education and training?

### **Patient**

Is there a way I can contact you by email or is it best by phone?

### **Narrator**

Ask your doctor any questions you have on topics such as circumcision, vaccinations, and use of antibiotics.

Some offices have other health care providers in the practice who may see your baby, like a Nurse Practitioner or a Physician's Assistant.

These are also highly qualified and experienced medical personnel committed to the care of their patients.

Choosing a health care provider for your baby is one of the most important decisions you'll make as a new parent.

Start exploring your options early and take your time so you can find just the right fit for you and your family.