

What is a PCP?

Did you know there are different types of primary care physicians for different life stages? Below are descriptions of the different types of primary care physicians to help you pinpoint which you may need, depending on your family's current health care needs.

	What They Do	Who They Treat	Training Completed
Family Practice Doctor	These generalists treat a variety of routine health conditions. They may also provide some specialty care such as treatment for sports injuries, minor surgeries or obstetrics services.	All ages — from newborns to the elderly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Medical school• Three-year residency in family medicine
Internist (Internal Medicine Doctor)	Internists focus on the prevention, diagnosis and management of chronic conditions of the body's major organ systems, but are also trained in primary care.	Adults 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Medical school• Three-year residency in internal medicine, with concentrated training on the body's internal organ systems
Geriatrician	These experts care for the special needs of seniors, addressing issues such as memory loss, arthritis, osteoporosis, mobility and Alzheimer's disease.	People age 65 or older 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Medical school• Three-year residency in internal medicine or family medicine• Fellowship in medical, psychological and social issues that concern older adults
Obstetrician and/or Gynecologist	These physicians treat diseases that affect the female reproductive system and/or specialize in the management of pregnancy, labor and birth.	Women of childbearing age 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Medical school• Four-year residency in obstetrics and gynecology
Pediatrician	These doctors manage the physical, behavioral and mental health issues of children — everything from preventive care to the diagnosis and treatment of serious childhood illnesses.	From newborn to age 21 (Note: A pediatrician cannot be a PCP for an adult) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Medical school• Three-year residency in pediatrics