

TOP TIPS ON Choosing a Pediatrician

 **Cooper**
University Health Care
Pediatrics



Growing With Care

Choosing a pediatrician for your baby

Preparing the nursery, picking out a car seat, taking birthing classes, and settling on possible names are just a few of the many (many!) things you will do to prepare to welcome your baby into the world. It's an exciting time, but we know it can sometimes feel a bit overwhelming too, especially when it comes to one of the biggest decisions you will make for your baby — choosing the right pediatrician.

Your baby will likely see a pediatrician several times during their first year of life, just for well visits, and additional visits are possible if your baby needs to be seen for common infant illnesses like ear infections and fevers. Because you will see your baby's pediatrician frequently, it is important to choose and establish a trusting relationship with a provider you feel comfortable with.

Our guide will help you through the things you might consider and possible questions to ask so you can choose a pediatrician for your baby with confidence.



Your Preferences Are Key

Before searching for a pediatrician for your baby, identify what is most important to you and your family. Whether it's the size of the practice, office location and hours, access to specialized services, the personality of the providers, or other factors, identifying what is most important to you will help to narrow your choices as you start searching for and meeting with pediatricians.

LIST YOUR PREFERENCES HERE



More Than Well and Sick Visits

Pediatricians provide numerous services for babies and children, including:

- Preventive care
- Immunizations
- Health maintenance
- Sick visits
- Specialist referrals
- Consultations for community pediatricians and family practitioners
- Weight management programs
- Dermatology
- Counseling
- Education
- Advocacy for children and families

Questions to Ask

Here are some of the most common questions you may consider asking prospective pediatricians:

- How big is the practice?
- How many doctors and nurses are in your group?
- Are all of the pediatricians in the practice board certified?
- How long have you been practicing?
- Do you have any specialized training or expertise?
- What are your philosophies on child health care?
- What are the practice's hours?
- Are you open late or on weekends?
- Who do I call if there is an emergency or if I have a question after office hours?
- How soon after birth will you see my baby?
- What hospital are you affiliated with?
- Where will you send my child if they need a specialist?
- Are there telemedicine options?
- Do you accept my insurance?

Should you meet the pediatrician before your baby arrives?

It's always a good idea for expectant families to have a prenatal visit with their baby's pediatrician. This visit helps you to gather important information about the practice, establish a trusting relationship with your baby's pediatrician, and get a feel for the office. A prenatal visit also gives pediatricians the opportunity to refer parents to appropriate resources and prepare them for any potential problems with their child.



When and How to Look for a Pediatrician

Because choosing a pediatrician is one of the biggest decisions you will make for your baby, it is important to start your search early — ideally, a few months before your baby is due. This gives you time to search for pediatricians in your community, learn about their approaches to pediatric health care, and visit and interview pediatricians you are considering for your baby.

How to find a pediatrician:

- 1 Search online for pediatric practices affiliated with the hospitals in your area.
- 2 Talk to people you trust, including friends, family members, neighbors, and co-workers who have children.
- 3 Ask your OB/GYN or primary care provider for recommendations.
- 4 Explore parent groups on social media.
- 5 See what providers your insurance carrier covers.

Exceptional Care for Your Baby The Cooper Difference

At Cooper, we are guided by our promise to provide families with committed, compassionate, and complete care. We believe in family-centered and inclusive health care that looks at the patient as a whole. Our 18 highly experienced, board-certified pediatricians and six advanced practice providers offer preventive and primary care for all children, from birth to 18 years, throughout South Jersey. They diagnose and treat illnesses while counseling parents on how to be active participants in their child's health care. To make sure your baby is off to the best start possible, a newborn visit with one of our pediatricians occurs quickly—usually within 48 hours of your baby's birth.

Our pediatricians also provide exceptional care for children who have chronic diseases or special health needs, and they have seamless access to Cooper specialists. As part of the Children's Regional Hospital at Cooper network, we provide access to:

- Pediatric specialty care in 27 subspecialties
- The only pediatric trauma center in South Jersey
- A level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit
- The only hospital-based pediatric surgery program in South Jersey
- World-class, state-of-the-art care at Cooper's renowned teaching hospital

Cooper's pediatricians do far more than care for infants, children, and adolescents. They are educators and lifelong learners on the forefront of the latest research, techniques, and health care practices. As part of South Jersey's leading academic health system, they share their knowledge with the next generation of health care providers, teaching and training medical and nursing students and residents. Unlike most pediatric practices, our pediatric offices are staffed by registered nurses who use their expertise and our state-of-the-art electronic medical record system to triage questions, concerns, and appointments so that your baby receives the best care possible.

Our Convenient Locations



Cooper
University Health Care
Pediatrics

Burlington

Cooper Pediatric Care at Burlington
1900 Burlington-Mount Holly Road
Burlington, NJ 08016
609.239.0306

Sewell

Cooper Pediatric Care at Sewell
4 Plaza Drive
Sewell, NJ 08080
856.270.4050

Camden

Cooper Pediatric Care at Camden
Sheridan Pavilion
Three Cooper Plaza
Camden, NJ 08103
856.342.2001

Voorhees

Cooper Pediatric Care at Voorhees
6400 Main Street
Voorhees, NJ 08043
856.751.9339

Moorestown

Cooper Pediatric Care at Moorestown
110 Marter Avenue
Moorestown, NJ 08057
856.536.1400

To schedule a prenatal consultation at any of our practices, call **800.8.COOPER.**

Have an emergency or an urgent question?

Our pediatrics call line is open 365 days a year so you can always reach a Cooper provider after hours for emergencies. Call the office number for the practice you visit or **800.8.COOPER.**



"When it comes to choosing a pediatrician, many things set Cooper apart. It's not only our guiding philosophy, driven by a commitment to compassionate care, but so much more. Cooper pediatricians are not just doctors — we're educators and researchers, and our quick access to specialists throughout Cooper means you can feel confident that your baby is receiving the most comprehensive, advanced care possible."

April M. Douglass-Bright, MD
Division Head, General Pediatrics

If It Matters to You, It Matters to Us

Whenever you have a question or concern, we want to hear from you. Building trusting relationships with our patients and families is important to us, and we are here to help with any concerns you have about your baby's health and development.

You can connect with us any time in the way that is most convenient and comfortable for you, including through:

- In-person visits
- Phone calls
- MyCooper/MyChart for nonurgent inquiries
- Telemedicine appointments



Take a Closer Look at Cooper



For over 130 years, Cooper has been committed to providing expert, compassionate care to the residents of our region. People trust Cooper as their first choice, with more than 1.6 million visits annually and patients from all 50 states and 35 countries.

Trust Your Care to Cooper

When you want access to top medical experts and services close to home, you can find the most complete health care in the region at Cooper.

To learn more, visit CooperHealth.org.

As an academic health system, Cooper offers patients quality health care, from primary care to specialty care, in its premier specialty Institutes and Centers of Excellence, including:

- MD Anderson Cancer Center at Cooper
- Surgical Services Institute
- Adult Health Institute
- Cardiac Partners
- Bone and Joint Institute
- Neurological Institute
- Women's and Children's Institute
- Urban Health Institute
- Recovery Village Cherry Hill at Cooper
- Center for Critical Care
- Center for Urgent and Emergent Services
- Center for Population Health
- Center for Trauma Services

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