



Tips For Choosing A New Primary Care Doctor Or Specialist For Your Child With Special Health Care Needs

When it comes to health care, choosing a doctor for your child is an important decision, especially for children with special health care needs. If you are new to an area, looking for specialty care, or just need to make a change, here is some information to help you make the best choice for your family.

Questions to Ask



Does your insurance require a specific network of doctors?

Insurance may impact which doctors are covered. If you want to limit what you pay, it is helpful to call your insurance, or look online for a list of doctors. Be sure to confirm with the doctor you choose that they participate with your insurance.



Do you need a referral?

Seeing certain specialty doctors may require a referral. Be sure this is done before you schedule an appointment with a new doctor.



Do my friends, coworkers or family recommend someone?

Ask friends or family who they may or may not recommend and why? This can provide valuable insight to help you choose. Remember each family has unique needs, however, so consider this as well.



What characteristics are important to my family?

Choosing someone you will feel confident in is important. Thinking about your family and who you feel comfortable with is ok.

Things to Consider



Board Certification – If the doctor is board certified, this means they have had additional training in their specialty.



Experience – Ask about the doctor's education and experience. It is helpful to know what areas the doctor has special knowledge in.



Availability – What days or times are the doctor available for appointments? Do they offer evening or weekend appointments if you need this?



Emergency or Back-up Care – Is there someone to call for questions or concerns after hours? Who else can your child see if the doctor is not available?



Hospital Affiliation – Which hospitals does the doctor work with? Is this the hospital you trust and can get to if hospital care is needed?

Michigan Family to Family Health Information Center

(MIF2F) exists to share resources, information, and learning opportunities for families of children and youth with special health care needs across Michigan, and also for the community partners and healthcare providers who care for them.

MI F2F offers:

- Information and resources related to caring for a child or young adult with special healthcare needs.
- Parent peers and individuals with experience navigating the maze of special health care services and programs.
- A network of Family Leaders across Michigan to help us identify community supports and resources for families.

www.f2fmichigan.org



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