Choosing a Doctor for Your Baby

Before you deliver, you’ll want to decide on a doctor to care for your baby. This information will help you make that decision. Once you have a doctor in mind, you might want to call and arrange a telephone interview or a short prenatal visit (there may be a charge for this visit).

Choosing the type of doctor
- **Family medicine physicians** care for the whole family. They have completed a three-year residency in family medicine with at least four months spent learning to care for children.
- **Pediatricians** specialize in the care of infants and children. They have completed a three-year residency devoted to the care of children from birth through adolescence.

Finding a doctor
- Ask other health professionals for a recommendation.
- Ask family or friends for recommendations.
- Call the Aurora systemwide referral line at 888-863-5502. Press 2 for physician referral line.
- How far are the recommended doctors from your home or work?

Questions to ask the doctor and office staff
- Is the doctor a member of your health plan?
- What are the office hours? Do the hours accommodate working families?
- If the doctor practices alone, who covers when he or she is unavailable? If it’s a group practice, will you see different care providers at different visits?
- Do they have space and time for well children to be seen separate from ill children?
- Are there pharmacy, lab and X-ray services available near the office or clinic?
- How is the billing done? Will fees be billed or must they be paid at the time of service? Do they have fees based on ability to pay?
- How long does it take to get an appointment for a routine visit? For a problem?
- When you call for advice, who will speak with you?
- Does the doctor admit to the hospital you are delivering at? If not, who will see your baby while you are in the hospital?
- Does the doctor support breastfeeding?
- Will the doctor accept your having immunizations done at the public health department for free with follow-up at the office, if needed?

Gather as much information as you need in order to make the right selection for your baby. Take an active part in your baby’s health care. Your baby’s doctor will see you and the baby in the hospital, and will give you home instructions. If questions come up at home, be sure to call the doctor.