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URL of this page: <https://medlineplus.gov/choosingadoctororhealthcareservice.html>

Choosing a Doctor or Health Care Service

We all want high-quality health care, but it's hard to know how to choose. There are many things to consider, including:

- What your insurance covers
- Whether a health care provider or service is accredited
- The location of a service
- Hours that the service is available
- Whether you like a health care provider's personality

On this page you'll find information to help you choose a health care provider or service.

Start Here

- How to Choose a Doctor You Can Talk to [<https://www.nia.nih.gov/health/medical-care-and-appointments/how-choose-doctor-you-can-talk>]  (National Institute on Aging)

Related Issues

- 6 Things to Know When Selecting a Complementary Health Practitioner [<https://www.nccih.nih.gov/health/tips/things-to-know-when-selecting-a-complementary-health-practitioner>]  (National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.nccih.nih.gov/health/espanol/consejos-a-la-hora-de-hablar-seis-aspectos-que-debe-conocer-al-elegir-un-profesional-de-medicina-complementaria>]
- Choosing a Family Doctor [<https://familydoctor.org/choosing-a-family-doctor/?adfree=true>]
(American Academy of Family Physicians)
Also in Spanish [<https://es.familydoctor.org/como-elegir-un-medico-de-familia/?adfree=true>]
- Choosing a Safe and Successful Weight-Loss Program [<https://www.niddk.nih.gov/health-information/weight-management/choosing-a-safe-successful-weight-loss-program>]
 (National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases)
Also in Spanish [[https://www.niddk.nih.gov/health-information/informacion-de-la-salud/control-de-peso/como-escoger-programa-para-adelgazar-seguro-exitoso](https://www.niddk.nih.gov/health-information/informacion-de-la-salud/control-de-peso?dkrd=/health-information/informacion-de-la-salud/control-de-peso/como-escoger-programa-para-adelgazar-seguro-exitoso)]
- Finding Cancer Care [<https://www.cancer.gov/about-cancer/managing-care/finding-cancer-care>]
 (National Cancer Institute)
- Health Care Providers: Family Doctors [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/hcp-family-doctors.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/hcp-family-doctors.html>]
- Mental Health Providers: Tips on Finding One [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/mental-illness/in-depth/mental-health-providers/ART-20045530?p=1>] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/es/diseases-conditions/mental-illness/in-depth/mental-health-providers/art-20045530?p=1>]

Specifics

- Health Care Providers: Midwives [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/hcp-midwives.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/hcp-midwives.html>]

Health Check Tools

- QuestionBuilder App [<https://www.ahrq.gov/questions/question-builder/index.html>] (Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.ahrq.gov/es/questions/question-builder/index.html>]

Statistics and Research

- FastStats: Ambulatory Care Use and Physician Office Visits [<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/physician-visits.htm>] (National Center for Health Statistics)

Journal Articles

References and abstracts from MEDLINE/PubMed (National Library of Medicine)

- Article: Effects of ethics communication in health care: a cluster randomised controlled... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40713613>]
- Article: Evaluating the impact of standardized hospital medical administration on doctor-patient relationships... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40620563>]
- Article: A randomized controlled trial evaluating stress arousal reappraisal and worked example... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40604103>]
- Choosing a Doctor or Health Care Service -- see more articles [<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?term=%22Delivery+of+Health+Care%22%5Bmajr%3Anoexp%5D+OR+%22Physician-Patient+Relations%22%5Bmajr%3Anoexp%5D+AND+humans%5Bmh%5D+AND+english%5Bla%5D+AND+%22last+1+Year%22+%5Bdat%5D+AND+%28patient+education+handout%5Bpt%5D+OR+guideline%5Bpt%5D+OR+clinical+trial%5Bpt%5D%29++NOT+%28letter%5Bpt%5D+OR+case+reports%5Bpt%5D+OR+editorial%5Bpt%5D+OR+comment%5Bpt%5D%29+AND+free+full+text%5Bsb%5D+>]

Find an Expert

- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services [<https://www.cms.gov/>]
- DocInfo [<https://www.docinfo.org/#/search/query>] (Federation of State Medical Boards of the United States)
- Find a Dialysis Facility [<https://www.medicare.gov/care-compare/?providerType=DialysisFacility>] (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services)
- Find Nursing Homes Including Rehab Services [<https://www.medicare.gov/care-compare/?providerType=NursingHome>] (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services)
Also in Spanish [<https://es.medicare.gov/care-compare/?providerType=NursingHome>]
- Medicare: Find and Compare Health Care Providers [<https://www.medicare.gov/care-compare/>] (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services)
Also in Spanish [<https://es.medicare.gov/care-compare/>]
- MedlinePlus: Directories [<https://medlineplus.gov/directories.html>]  (National Library of Medicine)
- National Institute on Aging [<https://www.nia.nih.gov/>] 
Also in Spanish [<https://www.nia.nih.gov/espanol>]

Children

- Choosing a Pediatrician for Your New Baby [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/find-ped.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/find-ped.html>]

Teenagers

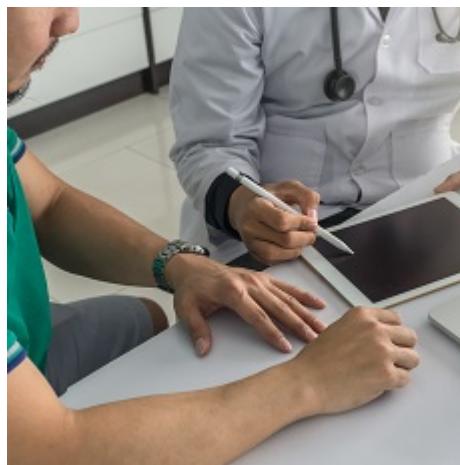
- Choosing a Primary Health Care Provider (PCP): General Information for Young Women [<https://youngwomenshealth.org/guides/choosing-a-doctor/>] (Boston Children's Hospital)

Older Adults

- Different Care Settings at the End of Life [<https://www.nia.nih.gov/health/end-life/different-care-settings-end-life>]  (National Institute on Aging)
- How to Choose a Doctor You Can Talk to [<https://www.nia.nih.gov/health/medical-care-and-appointments/how-choose-doctor-you-can-talk>]  (National Institute on Aging)

Patient Handouts

- Choosing a doctor and hospital for your cancer treatment [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000928.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/patientinstructions/000928.htm>]
- Choosing a primary care provider [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001939.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/001939.htm>]



MEDICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA

- Choosing a doctor and hospital for your cancer treatment [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000928.htm>]
- Choosing a primary care provider [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001939.htm>]
- Choosing the right health care provider for pregnancy and childbirth [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000596.htm>]

Related Health Topics

- Health Facilities [<https://medlineplus.gov/healthfacilities.html>]
- Patient Safety [<https://medlineplus.gov/patientsafety.html>]

National Institutes of Health

The primary NIH organization for research on *Choosing a Doctor or Health Care Service* is the National Institute on Aging [<https://www.nia.nih.gov/>]

Other Languages

Find health information in languages other than English [<https://medlineplus.gov/languages/choosingadoctororhealthcareservice.html>] on *Choosing a Doctor or Health Care Service*

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[<https://medlineplus.gov/criteria.html>] .

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