

Finding Resources in Your Area

A pediatrician is a doctor who specializes in the care of infants, children and adolescents up to about age 19 years. Like other medical specialists, pediatricians train for an additional 4 to 6 years after obtaining their MD degree.

General pediatricians see patients with a very wide range of problems, such as:

- premature births
- acute and chronic medical illnesses
- developmental disorders
- mental health challenges
- diabetes
- cancer
- complex heart disease
- asthma and allergies

Some pediatricians are subspecialists, who care for patients with very specific needs. In BC, a pediatrician will see a child who is referred by a family physician for diagnosis, treatment or continuing follow-up if the child has a complex problem, is seriously ill or requires hospitalization.

Pediatrics is a collaborative specialty — pediatricians work with other medical specialists, healthcare professionals and parents to provide for the health and emotional needs of children. See links below for resources in your community.

[Pediatricians and Family Doctors](#) (Visit the College of Physicians and Surgeons website)

NOTE: Type in the name of your community or the nearest large community and choose the category, e.g., “family physicians” (doctors) or “pediatrics” under “specialists”.

Referral Process

- In British Columbia, patients need a referral from their family doctor, nurse practitioner or registered midwife to see a pediatrician. If you feel your child has a complex or chronic condition that could be helped by a pediatrician, please speak to your primary health-care provider about a pediatric referral. Your general pediatrician can determine whether or not your child needs a subsequent referral to a pediatric subspecialist.

- Many smaller communities do not have a pediatrician, but some have access to visiting pediatricians who do outreach clinics.
- You can also be referred to a pediatrician in a larger community.

[Occupational Therapists](#)

[Physiotherapists](#)

[Speech Therapists](#)

[Audiologists](#)

[Optometrists](#)