



Having a Family Doctor is Good for *Your* Health

Family Physician [fam•i•ly fi•zish•uhn] noun

A physician who practices the specialty of family medicine. Also called *family doctor, family practitioner*. [The American Heritage Medical Dictionary]

PREVENTIVE CARE

Visiting your Family Physician for regular check-ups can help you stay healthy and prevent illness.

COMPREHENSIVE CARE

Family Physicians are trained to care for people of all ages—from birth through end of life. They also have a broad scope of knowledge so they are able to care for a wide range of symptoms affecting the body from head to toe. Therefore, a Family Physician is *the best* choice for families that want one place to go for all of their family members' healthcare needs.

COORDINATED CARE

If you get sick, your Family Physician can help you overcome the illness or provide

the best referrals when another specialist's care is needed. Navigating the healthcare system can be confusing and frustrating, but your Family Physician is on the front line and can help coordinate your care and serve as your advocate.

CHRONIC CARE

Your Family Physician can also be your partner in managing a chronic, long-lasting illness, such as diabetes, heart disease, and asthma.

ONGOING CARE

A strong primary care system centered on an ongoing doctor-patient relationship leads to the best health outcomes for patients, higher patient satisfaction, fewer hospitalizations, and reduced healthcare costs. Plus, having a

long-term relationship with a Family Physician enables him/her to really know you and your past health history, which helps in making the best medical decisions for you.

BEYOND MEDICAL CARE

A Family Physician knows the community and can connect you to local resources and services that can favorably impact your health, such as where to shop for healthy foods and how to join a support group.



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