

The Prenatal Interview with a Pediatrician

A prenatal interview is like a “first date.” You need to feel a certain chemistry with both the physician and the office. Ask yourself if you feel comfortable with the communication style of both the physician and staff. Did the interview feel relaxed or rushed? Were you comfortable with the physical environment?

Observe the following when you visit the office:

- Is there a separate area for newborns?
- Is there a separate area for sick children?
- Is the staff friendly and efficient?
- Is the office clean?
- Is there a lab on site?
- Is it a solo or group practice?
- Does the office have parking or is it accessible via public transportation?

Ask the following questions:

- Does the office take your insurance?
- How does it handle payments, bills, lab fees, insurance claims?
- How long has MD been in practice?
- If it is a group practice—do you get assigned one doctor or do you rotate doctors?
- What are the hospital affiliations?
- Does the doctor have any subspecialties?
- How do they schedule sick visits?
- Are there specific hours for calls for routine questions?
- Who answers routine questions—RN-NP-MD?
- Does the office respond to emails or texts?
- Does the office have a website?
- How do you reach the office after hours?
- What is the typical call back time for both routine and sick calls? Who returns the calls?
- Does the doctor visit the newborn in the hospital after delivery?
- When is the first newborn visit?
- What is the schedule of visits for the first year?
- What is procedure for medication refills?
- What is procedure for filling out school/camp forms?
- Is there a fee for filling out forms?
- What is doctor’s philosophy on topics such as:
 - Bottle vs breastfeeding
 - Circumcision
 - Pacifiers
 - Immunizations
 - Sleep training
 - Introducing Solids
 - Alternative/homeopathic medicine
- Do they suggest any parenting books or other resources?
- What do they like most about their job?