

Physician Specialty Definitions

Below is a general list of physician specialties. The list of specialties available in the Provider Lookup is dependent upon your network selection and your location. Some specialties listed below may not be available to you for selection.

Acupuncture	Treatment used on patients for relieving pain or producing regional anesthesia by inserting extremely thin needles in the skin to specific points on the body.
Addiction Medicine	The medical management of patients with physical and/or psychological dependencies, often chemical dependencies.
Adolescent Medicine	The evaluation of and the continuing and comprehensive medical care for preteen, adolescent, and young-adult patients.
Aerospace Medicine	Preventive or occupational medicine concerned with the health, safety, and performance of those involved in air and space travel. Also called aviation medicine or flight medicine.
Allergy and Immunology	The prevention, diagnosis and treatment of disorders and diseases of the immune system such as allergies, asthma, inherited immunodeficiency diseases and autoimmune
Anatomic and Clinical Pathology	The microscopic analysis of organs, tissue, cells, fluids and secretions -- often removed during operations or post mortem -- in order to diagnose, exclude and monitor disease.
Anesthesiology	The use and administration of medications to prevent or relieve pain, especially during surgical procedures.
Audiology	The prevention, diagnosis and treatment of hearing, balance and related disorders. It includes identifying and diagnosing auditory (hearing) loss, evaluating vestibular (balance) systems, providing therapies to the hearing impaired, implementing amplification devices to the hearing impaired and preventing noise-induced hearing loss through intervention.
Behavioral Health	The diagnosis and treatment of those with mental or behavioral disorders such as anxiety disorders, bipolar disorder, depression, obsessive compulsive disorder, post-traumatic stress, postpartum depression, eating disorders and schizophrenia as well as those with substance abuse and addiction problems.
Cardiac Electrophysiology	A subspecialty of cardiology concerned with the electrical activities and rhythm of the heart.
Cardiovascular Disease	The prevention, diagnosis and treatment of disorders and diseases associated with the heart, lungs, and major blood vessels.
Chiropractics	Treatment used on patients that involves manipulating and adjusting the joints and bones in a patient's spine using twisting, pulling, or pushing movements.
Clinical Pharmacology	The science of the use of drugs in treating illness and disease in patients: how drugs work, how they interact with other drugs, how their effects can alter the illness or disease
Complimentary Alternative Medicine	A group of diverse medical and health care treatments, practices and products that are not generally considered to be part of conventional medicine, and where questions remain as to their safety and effectiveness due to a lack of scientific evidence. Examples include acupuncture, massage, meditation, dietary supplements and vitamins. Complimentary Medicine is used together with conventional medicine. Alternative Medicine is used in place of conventional medicine.

Critical Care Medicine	The treatment and management of critically ill hospitalized patients who have complex, life-threatening problems often involving several organ systems.
Dentistry	The prevention, diagnosis and treatment of diseases, disorders, injuries, and malformations of the teeth, gums and supportive structures of the mouth.
Dermatology	The prevention, diagnosis and treatment of diseases and disorders of the skin, hair, nails, and mouth.
Dermatopathology	The microscopic analysis of tissue samples and bodily fluids and secretions used to determine the causes, nature, diagnosis and optimal treatment of skin disorders and diseases. A subspecialty of dermatology and pathology.
Ears, Nose and Throat (Otolaryngology)	The prevention, diagnosis and treatment of diseases and disorders of the ear, nose, throat, neck and head, such as respiratory ailments, allergies and balance and communication disorders.
Emergency Medicine	The initial treatment and management of those with emergent or urgent medical conditions, often administered in hospital emergency departments or in the field.
Endocrinology	The prevention, diagnosis and treatment of diseases and disorders of the endocrine system (adrenal glands, thyroid, parathyroids, pancreas, pituitary gland and hormones). Includes the treatment and management of diabetes: drug therapies, behavior modification, complication management and preventive care.
Endodontics	A subspecialty of dentistry responsible for the diagnosis and treatment of disorders and diseases affecting the tissues surrounding the root of a tooth.
Epidemiology	The study of disease in human populations and includes studying when and where the disease occurs, identifying risk factors for the disease, and determining the treatments or preventative measures that should be used that best serves the public.
Family Practice	The evaluation of and the continuing and comprehensive medical care for patients ranging in ages from infants to the elderly, and includes general pediatric, geriatric, obstetric and gynecological treatment and care.
Gastroenterology	The prevention, diagnosis and treatment of diseases and disorders of the digestive system, which includes the upper gastrointestinal tract (the mouth, salivary glands, pharynx, esophagus, diaphragm, stomach, gall bladder, pancreas, and liver) and the lower gastrointestinal tract (the intestines and anus).
General Practice	The evaluation of and the continuing and comprehensive medical care for patients ranging in ages from infants to the elderly and includes treatment for common conditions and diseases.
Genetics	The practice of performing and interpreting genetic testing relevant to the diagnosis and management of inherited transmitted disorders and diseases.
Geriatric Medicine	The evaluation of and the continuing and comprehensive medical care for elderly patients.
Gynecology	The prevention, diagnosis and treatment of disorders and diseases of the female reproductive and urinary systems.
Hematology / Oncology	The prevention, diagnosis, treatment and prognosis of cancer and tumors and of blood, spleen and lymph gland disorders.
Hepatology	The prevention, diagnosis and treatment of disorders and diseases of the liver, gallbladder, biliary tract and pancreas. A subspecialty of gastroenterology.
Holistic Medicine	Care of the whole patient with the focus on helping to balance all aspects of a patient's life (physical, environmental, mental, emotional, social and spiritual), which may involve conventional and alternative therapies to promote optimal health.

Hospitalist	The management and coordination of comprehensive medical treatment for hospitalized patients.
Hyperbaric Medicine	The use of specially constructed chambers to increase oxygen content in blood and tissue at a level higher than atmospheric pressure to treat a variety of conditions such as: air and gas embolisms, carbon monoxide poisoning, crush injuries, decompression sickness (also known as “the bends”), infections and wounds, skin grafts and burns.
Infectious Disease	The causes, prevention, diagnosis and treatment of acute and chronic infectious diseases. Infectious diseases, which may or may not be contagious, are caused by microscopic organisms, including bacteria and viruses, that enter a body and multiply, creating illness.
Internal Medicine	The prevention, diagnosis and treatment of a variety of disorders and diseases, with a focus on long-term comprehensive care of adults. There are several subspecialties of Internal Medicine and include: allergy and immunology, cardiology, endocrinology, gastroenterology, hematology, infectious disease, nephrology, oncology, pulmonology and rheumatology.
Marriage and Family Counseling	The treatment of interpersonal disorders within the family, a marriage or a relationship in an effort to better manage differences and end repeating patterns. Treatment is given by a licensed psychotherapist or mental health professional.
Massage Therapy	The use of soft tissue manipulation and pressure techniques to relieve the patient of pain or anxiety or to positively affect the health and well-being of the patient.
Maternal and Fetal Medicine	The subspecialty of obstetrics and gynecology focusing on maternal and fetal healthcare especially in regard to patients either suffering from complications of pregnancy or at-risk for a complicated pregnancy.
Medicolegal	The field pertaining to the complex legal aspects of medicine such as malpractice, negligence, liability, patient consent for operations, organ harvesting, toxicology reporting and cause of death opinions.
Midwifery	A field of care specializing in low-risk pregnancy, natural childbirth and general postpartum care for women and newborn infants.
Natropathic Medicine	The field of medicine based on preventative care and the belief that the body can heal itself naturally by eating organically, exercising, living a balanced lifestyle, and using other Complimentary Alternative Medicines.
Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine	The evaluation of and the continuing and comprehensive medical care for the fetus and newborn infant experiencing complex medical issues. Perinatal and neonatal is the stage of development of the fetus and newborn infant, from about 12 weeks prior to its birth or due date to about four weeks after birth.
Nephrology	The prevention, diagnosis and treatment of disorders and diseases affecting the structure and function of the kidneys.
Neurology	The prevention, diagnosis and treatment of a variety of disorders and diseases as they apply to the brain, spinal cord, nerves and skeletal muscle. Disorders and diseases include: brain injury, stroke, coma, Alzheimer’s disease, Parkinson’s disease, Huntington’s disease, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, multiple sclerosis, migraines, behavioral syndromes, encephalitis, meningitis, brain tumors, spinal cord tumors, back injuries affecting the spinal cord, Lou Gehrig’s disease, sleep disorders and speech and language disorders.
Neuropsychology	A subspecialty of psychology that studies the relationship between behavior and brain function and structure and evaluates and diagnoses those with autism, developmental disabilities, learning disabilities, memory disorders, Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias, seizures, strokes, communication disorders and behavior disorders.

Nuclear Medicine	A field of medicine and medical imaging that uses radioactive substances to diagnose and treat diseases and disorders.
Nuclear Radiology	A subspecialty of medical imaging that uses radioactive substances to diagnose and treat diseases and disorders.
Nurse Practitioner	A healthcare professional who is a registered nurse (RN) and is trained and licensed to practice independently in a medical specialty and may prescribe medications and function as a primary care provider. Also called a Registered Practical Nurse.
Nursing	A healthcare professional focused on patients: restoring health, promoting health, planning and implementing interventions, alleviating pain and suffering, preventing illness and improving the quality of life.
Nutrition	The field concerned with the treatment and prevention of disease and illness through nutrition and diet by promoting healthy eating habits, recommending dietary modifications, assessing nutritional needs, managing the weight of overweight patients or developing and implementing nutrition programs.
Obstetrics and Gynecology	The prevention, diagnosis and treatment of disorders and diseases of the female reproductive and urinary systems as well as the comprehensive medical care of women and the fetus/infant during pregnancy and delivery.
Occupational Medicine	The diagnosis, treatment and prevention of disease and injury in the workplace.
Occupational Therapy	The diagnosis and therapeutic treatment of patients facing physical or developmental challenges with performing daily activities (or occupations).
Oncology	The prevention, diagnosis, treatment and prognosis of cancer as well as the comprehensive medical management of patients with cancer.
Ophthalmology	The prevention, diagnosis and treatment of disorders and diseases associated with the eye such as glaucoma, retinal detachment, cataracts and macular degeneration.
Optometry	The examination, diagnosis and treatment of the eyes and visual system. Eye care specialty with a focus on conducting eye exams and prescribing, supplying and adjusting corrective eye glasses and contact lenses.
Orthodontics	A subspecialty of dentistry responsible for the diagnosis and treatment of improper bites, tooth irregularities, jaw abnormalities and improper bites. Treatment often includes the use of devices that incrementally move teeth such as fixed braces, removable appliances and headgear.
Osteopathic Medicine	A field of comprehensive medical care based on a more holistic approach (the “whole person”) to a patient’s health with a focus on preventive care and on the musculoskeletal system.
Pain Management	The evaluation and implementation of various treatments, medications and therapies designed to reduce pain, minimize suffering, improve quality of life and increase functionality.
Palliative Medicine	A field of comprehensive medical care for a patient with a life-threatening disease or terminal illness that is not responsive to curative treatment. The care focuses on relieving symptoms, controlling pain, minimizing suffering, providing emotional and psychological support and managing complications of the disease.
Pathology	The microscopic analysis of tissue samples and bodily fluids and secretions used to determine the causes, nature, diagnosis and optimal treatment of diseases and disorders.

Pediatric Allergy and Immunology	The prevention, diagnosis and treatment of disorders and diseases of the immune system such as allergies, asthma, inherited immunodeficiency diseases and autoimmune diseases in infants, children, adolescents and young adults.
Pediatric Anesthesiology	The use and administration of medications to prevent or relieve pain, especially during surgical procedures in infants, children, adolescents and young adults.
Pediatric Cardiology	The prevention, diagnosis and treatment of disorders and diseases associated with the heart of infants, children, adolescents and young adults.
Pediatric Critical Care Medicine	The treatment and management of critically ill hospitalized infants, children, adolescents and young adults who have complex, life-threatening problems often involving several organ systems.
Pediatric Dentistry	The prevention, diagnosis and treatment of diseases, disorders, injuries, and malformations of the teeth, gums and supportive structures of the mouth in infants, children, adolescents and young adults.
Pediatric Dermatology	The prevention, diagnosis and treatment of diseases and disorders of the skin, hair, nails, and mouth in infants, children, adolescents and young adults.
Pediatric Emergency Medicine	The initial treatment and management of infants, children, adolescents and young adults with emergent or urgent medical conditions, often administered in hospital emergency departments or in the field.
Pediatric Endocrinology	The prevention, diagnosis and treatment of diseases and disorders of the endocrine system (adrenal glands, thyroid, parathyroids, pancreas, pituitary gland and hormones) in infants, children, adolescents and young adults. Includes treatment and management of diabetes: drug therapies, behavior modification, complication management and preventive care.
Pediatric Gastroenterology	The prevention, diagnosis and treatment of diseases and disorders of the digestive system of infants, children, adolescents and young adults. Includes the upper gastrointestinal tract (the mouth, salivary glands, pharynx, esophagus, diaphragm, stomach, gall bladder, pancreas, and liver) and the lower gastrointestinal tract (the intestines and anus).
Pediatric Genetics	The practice of performing and interpreting genetic testing relevant to the diagnosis and management of inherited transmitted disorders and diseases in infants, children, adolescents and young adults.
Pediatric Infectious Disease	The causes, prevention, diagnosis and treatment of acute and chronic infectious diseases in infants, children, adolescents and young adults. Infectious diseases, which may or may not be contagious, are caused by microscopic organisms, including bacteria and viruses, that penetrate the body and multiply, creating illness.
Pediatric Intensive Care	The treatment and management of critically ill hospitalized infants, children, adolescents and young adults who have complex, life-threatening problems often involving several organ systems. Also called Critical Care Medicine - Pediatric
Pediatric Nephrology	The prevention, diagnosis and treatment of disorders and diseases affecting the structure and function of the kidneys of infants, children, adolescents and young adults.
Pediatric Neurology	The prevention, diagnosis and treatment of a variety of disorders and diseases as they apply to the brain, spinal cord, nerves and skeletal muscle of infants, children, adolescents and young adults.
Pediatric Neurosurgery	The surgical treatment of disorders, diseases and injuries of the brain, spinal cord, nerves and skeletal muscle typically performed on the brain and the neck and back area of the spine of infants, children, adolescents and young adults.

Pediatric Oncology and Hematology	The prevention, diagnosis, treatment and prognosis of cancer and tumors and of blood, spleen and lymph gland disorders in infants, children, adolescents and young adults.
Pediatric Ophthalmology	The diagnosis, surgical treatment, non-surgical treatment and prevention of disorders and diseases associated with the eyes of infants, children, adolescents and young adults.
Pediatric Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	The surgical treatment of disorders, diseases and injuries of the mouth, teeth, jaws, face, neck and skull such as dental implants, bone grafting, impacted wisdom teeth extraction, facial trauma, jaw disorders and sleep apnea.
Pediatric Orthopedics	The prevention, diagnosis and treatment of disorders, diseases and injuries of the of the bones, muscles, joints, and tendons in infants, children, adolescents and young adults.
Pediatric Ears, Nose and Throat (Otolaryngology)	The prevention, diagnosis and treatment of diseases and disorders of the ear, nose, throat, neck and head, such as respiratory ailments, allergies and balance and communication disorders in infants, children, adolescents and young adults.
Pediatric Otology	The causes, prevention, diagnosis and treatment of disorders and diseases of the ear of infants, children, adolescents and young adults.
Pediatric Pathology	The microscopic analysis of tissue samples and bodily fluids and secretions used to determine the causes, nature, diagnosis and optimal treatment of diseases and disorders in infants, children, adolescents and young adults.
Pediatric Plastic Surgery	The surgical treatment of patients requiring repair and reconstruction of facial and body defects due to birth disorders, trauma, operative scarring, burns and disease in infants, children, adolescents and young adults.
Pediatric Psychiatry	The diagnosis and treatment of those with mental or behavioral disorders in children, adolescents and young adults. Psychiatrists are medical doctors.
Pediatric Psychology	The diagnosis and treatment of those with mental or behavioral disorders in children, adolescents and young adults. Psychologists are not medical doctors.
Pediatric Pulmonology	The prevention, diagnosis and treatment of disorders and diseases of the lungs and respiratory system such as pneumonia, asthma, emphysema, bronchitis and COPD in infants, children, adolescents and young adults.
Pediatric Radiology	The diagnosis and treatment of diseases and disorders in infants, children, adolescents and young adults using one or more of the following medical imaging technologies: x-rays, ultrasound, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), computed tomography (CT), doppler ultrasonography, positron emission tomography (PET) and other nuclear imaging, bone densitometry and thermography.
Pediatric Rheumatology	The prevention, diagnosis and treatment of autoimmune and inflammatory disorders affecting joints, muscles, connective tissues and soft tissues around the bones and tendons of infants, children, adolescents and young adults.
Pediatric Surgery	The surgical treatment for a variety of disorders, diseases and injuries, but typically focused on trauma or emergency care, abdominal organs and the gastrointestinal system, the thyroid and skin for infants, children, adolescents and young adults.
Pediatric Urology	The prevention, diagnosis and treatment of disorders and diseases of the bladder, kidneys, and urinary tract system of infants, children, adolescents and young adults.
Pediatrics	Evaluation of and comprehensive medical treatment for infants, children, adolescents and young adults.
Pediatrics - Developmental and Behavioral	The diagnosis and management of developmental difficulties and problematic behaviors in infants, children, adolescents and young adults.

Periodontics	A subspecialty of dentistry responsible for the diagnosis and treatment of disorders and diseases of the supporting structures around the teeth.
Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation – Physiatry	The field of comprehensive care to patients with injuries to the muscles, bones, tissues and nervous system, such as musculoskeletal injuries, pain syndromes, stroke, brain injury, spinal cord injury, burns and amputations. The focus is to help restore optimal function to these patients and coordinate care over a rehabilitation team of professionals including physical therapists, occupational therapists, recreational therapists, rehabilitation nurses, psychologists, social workers, speech-language pathologists and
Physical Therapy	The treatment of patients impaired by injury, surgery, stroke, disease or chronic illness to relieve pain, prevent injury and increase or improve strength, mobility, motor control, endurance, stability or balance through various therapies, exercises, training and education.
Physician Assistant	A field of care that works under the management and supervision of a licensed doctor (MD or DO).
Podiatry	The prevention, diagnosis and treatment of disorders and diseases of the feet. Those practicing podiatry are Doctors of Podiatry (DPM).
Prosthodontics	A subspecialty of dentistry responsible for the diagnosis and treatment of those with missing or deficient teeth, usually with reconstructive dentistry such as dentures, crowns and implants.
Psychiatry	The diagnosis and treatment of those with mental or behavioral disorders such as anxiety disorders, bipolar disorder, depression, obsessive compulsive disorder, post-traumatic stress, postpartum depression, eating disorders and schizophrenia as well as those with substance abuse and addiction problems. Psychiatrists are medical doctors.
Psychology	The diagnosis and treatment of those with mental or behavioral disorders such as anxiety disorders, bipolar disorder, depression, obsessive compulsive disorder, post-traumatic stress, postpartum depression, eating disorders and schizophrenia as well as those with substance abuse and addiction problems. Psychologists are not medical doctors.
Pulmonary Medicine	The prevention, diagnosis and treatment of disorders and diseases of the lungs and respiratory system such as pneumonia, asthma, emphysema, bronchitis and COPD.
Radiology	The diagnosis and treatment of diseases and disorders using one or more of the following medical imaging technologies: x-rays, ultrasound, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), computed tomography (CT), doppler ultrasonography, positron emission tomography (PET) and other nuclear imaging, bone densitometry and thermography.
Reproductive Medicine	The diagnosis and treatment of infertility in women and men.
Respiratory Therapy	The treatment of patients for breathing and lung-related diseases and disorders such as asthma, bronchitis, emphysema, COPD, sleep apnea and other sleep disorders, heart attack, stroke, asphyxiation or trauma.
Rheumatology	The prevention, diagnosis and treatment of autoimmune and inflammatory disorders affecting joints, muscles, connective tissues and soft tissues around the bones and tendons such as rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis, septic arthritis, lupus, scleroderma, gout and vasculitis.
Social Work	A social service focused on acting as a patient’s advocate; providing patients and their families with information and other services; connecting patients with agencies, programs and resources that meet their needs; providing psychotherapy, supportive counseling, or grief counseling; helping patients to expand and strengthen their support system.

Speech Pathology	The study of the causes, nature, diagnosis and optimal treatment of speech impairment and function.
Surgery – Bariatric Surgery	The surgical modification of the gastrointestinal tract to reduce nutrient intake and/or absorption for treating obese patients. Also known as weight loss surgery.
Surgery – Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery	The surgical treatment of disorders and diseases associated with the heart, lungs, and major blood vessels.
Surgery – Colon and Rectal Surgery	The surgical treatment of disorders and diseases pertaining to the lower digestive tracts: colon, rectum and anus.
Surgery – Foot and Ankle Surgery	A subspecialty of orthopedic surgery that deals with the diagnosis and treatment of disorders, diseases and injuries in the foot and ankle.
Surgery – General Surgery	The surgical treatment of a variety of disorders, diseases and injuries, but typically focused on trauma or emergency care, abdominal organs and the gastrointestinal system, the thyroid, skin and mammary glands.
Surgery – Hand Surgery	The surgical treatment of disorders, diseases and injuries of the hand. A subspecialty of orthopedic surgery.
Surgery – Head and Neck Surgery	The surgical treatment of disorders, diseases and injuries of the head and neck.
Surgery – Neurosurgery	The surgical treatment of disorders, diseases and injuries of the brain, spinal cord, nerves and skeletal muscle typically performed on the brain and the neck and back area of the spine.
Surgery – Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	The surgical treatment of disorders, diseases and injuries of the mouth, teeth, jaws, face, neck and skull such as dental implants, bone grafting, impacted wisdom teeth extraction, facial trauma, jaw disorders and sleep apnea.
Surgery – Orthopedic Surgery	The surgical treatment of disorders, diseases and injuries of the bones, muscles, joints, and tendons such as degenerative diseases, congenital conditions, sports injuries, trauma, infections and tumors.
Surgery – Plastic Surgery	The surgical treatment of patients requiring repair and reconstruction of facial and body defects due to birth disorders, trauma, operative scarring, burns and disease.
Surgery – Transplant	The surgical transplantation of organs from one body to another.
Surgical Assistant	A field of care that performs various functions during surgery and performs preoperative and postoperative duties under the direction and supervision of the surgeon.
Urology	The prevention, diagnosis and treatment of disorders and diseases of the bladder, kidneys, and urinary tract system.
Wound / Burn Care Specialist	A field of comprehensive medical care for patients suffering from burns or complex, hard-to-heal wounds. Services may include transport, intensive care, surgery and multiple rehabilitation therapies.