



# Having a primary care doctor makes a difference

Stay healthy and help lower your healthcare costs over time with a PCP

The right doctor can have a positive impact on your health and well-being. Choosing one in your plan can save you money as well. The following information can help you find a doctor who is a good fit for you and your family.

## Why you should have a primary care doctor

A primary care provider (PCP) serves as your main doctor and is your first stop when you need care.

## When you see the same doctor over time, they can:

<p><b>See the full picture of your health</b></p>	<p><b>Save you time and money</b></p>	<p><b>Coordinate your care or treatments</b></p>	<p><b>Help you avoid costly ER visits</b></p>	<p><b>Assist you after hours</b></p>
 <p>They know your health history and can connect the dots quickly if you have a health issue.</p>	 <p>A PCP helps you stay healthy with preventive care and can help manage chronic conditions and medications.</p>	 <p>They help ensure tests aren't needlessly repeated, your medicines work well together, and your other doctors agree on your health needs.</p>	 <p>Call your PCP first when you have an illness, minor injury, or flare-up of a chronic condition. They can advise you where to go for care.</p>	 <p>Many PCPs now have evening and weekend hours. Some may also offer telehealth virtual visits.</p>

## The main types of primary care doctors include:

- **Family practitioners and general practice doctors** treat people of all ages. This type of doctor might be a good choice if you want to keep your family's care "under one roof."
- **Internal medicine doctors**, also called internists, treat adults and may have special knowledge about certain health problems. If you have a long-term health condition, an internist who specializes in your issue may be a good fit.
- **Pediatricians** specialize in caring for children, from birth to early adulthood.



## What to consider when choosing your doctor

Every doctor is different. Take time to find a doctor who makes you feel comfortable, listens to your needs, and explains things clearly. It's also important to find out if the doctor:

- Is part of your health plan's network. You'll pay less out of pocket for your visits, preventive care screenings, vaccines, and annual physicals. If your doctor is not in your plan's network, you may not be covered at all.
- Has the training and background to treat your health problems.
- Has an office in a convenient location, close to your home or work.
- Holds office hours that work with your schedule.
- Offers telehealth options, such as text, email, phone, or video visits.

You can visit different doctors in your plan's network to find the one who is right for you. If you're not happy with your first choice, it's okay. You may be able to change your primary care doctor depending on your plan.



### Three ways to find a doctor in your plan:

1. Download the Sydney Health<sup>SM</sup> mobile app, log in, and select **Find Care**.
2. Call Member Services at the number on your ID card.
3. Scan the QR Code below or log in at **anthem.com** and choose **Find Care**.



Use your phone's camera to scan this QR code.



### Your plan covers telehealth visits

Virtual care, also known as telehealth, is a simpler way to talk to a doctor and can be a good option for some urgent issues. Ask your doctor if they offer telehealth visits. You can also access telehealth 24/7 through the Sydney Health<sup>SM</sup> mobile app.

**If you believe you are having a life-threatening emergency or your health is in serious jeopardy, call 911 immediately.**

Sources:  
WebMD website: *How to Choose a Doctor* (accessed July 2021): [webmd.com](http://webmd.com)  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website: *Regular Check-Ups are Important* (accessed July 2021): [cdc.gov/family/checkup](http://cdc.gov/family/checkup).

In addition to using a telehealth service, you can receive in-person or virtual care from your own doctor or another healthcare provider in your plan's network. If you receive care from a doctor or healthcare provider not in your plan's network, your share of the costs may be higher. You may also receive a bill for any charges not covered by your health plan.

Sydney Health is offered through an arrangement with Caredon Digital Platforms, a separate company offering mobile application services on behalf of your health plan. ©2023

Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield is the trade name of: In Colorado: Rocky Mountain Hospital and Medical Service, Inc. HMO products underwritten by HMO Colorado, Inc. Copies of Colorado network access plans are available on request from member services or can be obtained by going to [anthem.com/co/networkaccess](http://anthem.com/co/networkaccess). In Connecticut: Anthem Health Plans, Inc. In Georgia: Blue Cross Blue Shield Healthcare Plan of Georgia, Inc. In Indiana: Anthem Insurance Companies, Inc. In Kentucky: Anthem Health Plans of Kentucky, Inc. In Maine: Anthem Health Plans of Maine, Inc. In Missouri (excluding 30 counties in the Kansas City area): RightCHOICE<sup>®</sup> Managed Care, Inc. (RIT), Healthy Alliance<sup>®</sup> Life Insurance Company (HALIC), and HMO Missouri, Inc. RIT and certain affiliates administer non-HMO benefits underwritten by HALIC and HMO benefits underwritten by HMO Missouri, Inc. RIT and certain affiliates only provide administrative services for self-funded plans and do not underwrite benefits. In Nevada: Rocky Mountain Hospital and Medical Service, Inc. HMO products underwritten by HMO Colorado, Inc., dba HMO Nevada. In New Hampshire: Anthem Health Plans of New Hampshire, Inc. HMO plans are administered by Anthem Health Plans of New Hampshire, Inc. and underwritten by Matthew Thornton Health Plan, Inc. In Ohio: Community Insurance Company. In Virginia: Anthem Health Plans of Virginia, Inc. trades as Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield in Virginia, and its service area is all of Virginia except for the City of Fairfax, the Town of Vienna, and the area east of State Route 123. In Wisconsin: Blue Cross Blue Shield of Wisconsin (BCBSWI), underwrites or administers PPO and indemnity policies and underwrites the out of network benefits in POS policies offered by Compare Health Services Insurance Corporation (Compare) or Wisconsin Collaborative Insurance Corporation (WCIC). Compare underwrites or administers HMO or POS policies; WCIC underwrites or administers Well Priority HMO or POS policies. Independent licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association. Anthem is a registered trademark of Anthem Insurance Companies, Inc.