

Role of a General Practitioner (GP) in Pregnancy Care



Highlights

Your doctor, also known as a general practitioner (GP), is likely to be the first health professional you see when you become pregnant or think you may be pregnant.

Your GP can discuss your options for pregnancy care and birth.

The choices you make and the facilities available where you live will determine the role your doctor will play.

Some GPs offer 'shared care,' where you can see your GP for some of your routine pregnancy care visits instead of seeing an obstetrician or hospital antenatal clinic.

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GP Role

First Antenatal GP Appointment

Planning Your Antenatal Care and Birth

Public or private hospital
Birth center
Home birth \ (if available and recommended by your healthcare provider\)

Location \ (urban or rural access to maternity services\)
Private health insurance and whether you wish to choose your own obstetrician
Personal health history, age, and any existing medical conditions

Monitoring Your Health and Your Baby's Health

Blood tests to check for anemia and blood disorders
Screening for infectious diseases that may impact pregnancy
A dating ultrasound scan to estimate the due date if necessary

GP Role in Pregnancy Care

GP Role After the Birth

A health check for you and your baby
Support with breastfeeding and infant care
Discussion of postpartum mental health and physical recovery

Questions to Ask Your GP

GP Training

Cost of Seeing a GP

Tools and Assistance

Healthcare providers in your community

Local hospitals and birth centers

Maternity care associations

Online support networks