



What is a Pediatric Specialist?

Pediatric specialists are the only physicians uniquely qualified to treat children with complex, chronic conditions. The specialized treatment they provide is far different from the primary care given by general pediatricians, who concentrate on colds, fevers and other common illnesses and injuries.

The developing bodies and emotions of children are significantly different from those of adults and require a high degree of specialization and individualized care. The skilled care provided by pediatric specialists dramatically increases the quality of life and survival rates for children with rare, serious and chronic health conditions.

What kind of patients do Pediatric Specialists treat?

Pediatric specialists care for children from newborns to young adults. They diagnose, treat and manage children's specialty care needs including those with:

Cancer • Cerebral palsy • Congenital heart disease • Cystic fibrosis • Birth defects • Hemophilia
Diabetes • Spina Bifida • HIV

What kind of training is required of a Pediatric Specialist?

Pediatric specialists have a commitment to treat children with special health care needs and have the advanced training and experience necessary to treat children's complex medical and surgical conditions.

- Four years of medical school
- Three years of training in pediatrics
- Additional three years of training in the area of their specialty
- Three to eight years of residency
- Graduate level education in their medical specialty in the form of on-the-job training in a hospital setting
- Board certification

Pediatric surgeons undergo additional

- Five years of general surgery training
- Two years training in pediatric surgery
- Board certification