

SELECTING A PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIAN THAT IS BEST SUITED FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY IS A FOUNDATION FOR GOOD HEALTH CARE.

Prepaid Primary Care Physicians (PCPs) are the starting point for HMO members who need care. Members will select a PCP or will be assigned to a doctor. PPO members are not required to designate PCPs, but because specialists cost more, members should consider starting with a primary care doctor when seeking care.

To find out what PCPs are available to you through your medical plan, you can search for doctors [using your plan's website](#) or by [calling your plan](#).

What to consider

- **Availability:** Inquire if the doctor accepting new patients through your medical plan.
- **Education/Training:** Where/when did the doctor graduate from medical school? At what institution(s) did the doctor receive training?
- **License:** Find out the status of California physician licenses using the [Medical Board of California](#) website. This site will also report any disciplinary action taken by the Board against a physician.
- **Board Certification:** Some doctors are board certified, which means they have completed several years of training in a specialty and passed an exam. For more information, visit the [American Board of Medical Specialties](#) website or call (866) 275-2267.
- **Office Location:** Is the doctor's office conveniently located? Is public transportation available?
- **Medical Group Affiliation:** If you belong to an HMO, your Primary Care Physician will usually refer you to physicians in the same group. With which medical group(s) is the doctor affiliated? Does that group offer access to a wide variety of specialists? Medical group ratings can be found at [California's Quality of Care Report Card](#) and [CalQualityCare.org](#).
- **Hospital Affiliation:** With which hospital is the doctor affiliated? Is that hospital conveniently located? Hospital quality ratings can be found on [CalQualityCare.org](#) and [Medicare.gov](#).
- **Urgent Care:** Is there an urgent care facility available or are you required to use the Emergency Room at the hospital? What are the hours of operation?
- **Foreign Languages:** Would you or one of your family benefit from a PCP that spoke another language?
- **What Type of Doctor best Suits Your Needs?**

Local Health Facilities

- Many of the answers to these questions can be found on your [medical plan's website](#), or on the website of the medical group (or groups) to which your doctor belongs. Some of the medical groups near UC Irvine include:
 - [AppleCare Medical Group](#)
 - [Edinger Medical Group](#)
 - [Greater Newport Physicians](#)
 - [HealthCare Partners](#)
 - [MemorialCare Medical Group](#)
 - [Monarch Healthcare](#)
 - [Regal Medical Group](#)
 - [UC Irvine Health](#)
 - [UCI University Physicians and Surgeons](#)

This information is only a general guide. There may be more pertinent information you should consider prior to choosing your PCP. For more information on this topic, see the [Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality guide](#) to choosing a doctor.