Dear Expectant Mothers,

Congratulations on your new baby! We would like to encourage you to start looking for a doctor to care for your new little one. Choosing a doctor for your baby is an important part of getting prepared for your baby’s arrival. Your baby’s doctor will take care of them from the day they are born until they are ready to go off to college!

It’s important to choose a doctor before your baby arrives so they are available to help with any problems that could arise soon after birth such as problems with feeding or illness. Most doctors ask that you fill out paperwork for their office before the baby arrives so they are prepared to see the baby in the hospital or immediately after hospital discharge if needed. Therefore we recommend starting your search several months before your due date. Talk to your friends, family members, co-workers, and other people in your community to see who they recommend. It is also a good idea to make sure the doctor you choose is Board Certified by the American Academy of Pediatrics or American Academy of Family Physicians. You also need to make sure the doctor accepts your insurance plan.

There are two types of doctors who see babies. Pediatricians specialize in the care of children from birth to age 21 years. Family Practice doctors take care of all ages from birth through adulthood.

We would also like to encourage you to think about breastfeeding your baby for the health benefits it will provide both your baby and you! Talk with your OB/GYN at your next visit or contact the lactation nurses at DCH if you have any breastfeeding questions. Staff will be available to help you with any breastfeeding issues after delivery.

Sincerely,

The Pediatric Department of DCH Health System