



Pediatrician

7

Job Description:

Pediatricians treat the physical, emotional, and social health of children from birth to 21 years.

Gross Monthly Income:

\$8,900

Wages:

Average median yearly pay is about \$107,000 a year in Utah.

Schedule: Set schedule, business hours (8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.) no weekends or nights, but on-call (can be called in for emergencies.)



Advancement:

Many pediatricians advance their careers by getting additional training and learning new skills. They can also increase the number of patients they see. After many years of experience, doctors who work in hospitals may become administrators. Others who do research or teach in universities may become department heads. Many pediatricians advance by opening a solo practice.

Education & Experience:

- ◆ Completed High School
- ◆ Bachelor's degree
- ◆ Graduate from Medical school
- ◆ Complete and internship
- ◆ Pass a state licensing exam
- ◆ Complete a residency program
- ◆ Pass additional exams to become board certified.

High

School Courses:

- ◆ Anatomy & Physiology
- ◆ Computer Applications
- ◆ Food and Nutrition
- ◆ Nursing
- ◆ Health Education
- ◆ Safety and First Aid

Work Conditions:

- ◆ High level of social interaction. Constantly talk with patients, parents, and medical staff
- ◆ Word daily with patients who have diseases or infections
- ◆ Must be good at working with children, who can be cranky and unreasonable.
- ◆ Must be very exact and accurate in performing their job.
- ◆ Travel: Often travel to hospitals when new babies are born Travel: Often travel between hospitals and the office

Job Outlook:



Small

Hours a Week:

50

Leisure Time:

Low

Knowledge:

- ◆ Medicine & Dentistry
- ◆ Psychology
- ◆ Biology
- ◆ English Language
- ◆ Therapy & Counseling
- ◆ Customer & Personal Service
- ◆ Education & Training



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7

Overview

If you were born in a hospital in the United States, chances are that you received your first medical test one minute after birth. The test, called the APGAR score (Activity, Pulse, Grimace, Appearance, and Respiration), is used to evaluate a newborn's condition. Just like any test, the higher the score the better! The APGAR is taken again five minutes after birth to assess progress. The APGAR was designed to help medical staff quickly determine whether the baby needs immediate medical care. The APGAR was not designed to predict the baby's long-term health. Regardless of your APGAR score, you were likely examined within the first 24 hours after birth by a pediatrician.

Pediatricians are doctors who specialize in caring for children. Their patients include newborns through young adults. They may provide primary care and take care of children's general needs, or they may specialize. For example, they may treat children with cancer or heart problems.

Like most doctors, pediatricians focus on preventing problems before they begin. They often see their youngest patients for regularly scheduled visits called well baby checks. During these exams, pediatricians check patients' growth, weight, and development. To prevent disease, immunizations are also given during well baby checks. Pediatricians also educate their patients' parents about ways to keep their children healthy. They educate their older patients about exercise, hygiene, and eating better.

In general, doctors ask patients questions to learn more about their medical histories. Pediatricians, however, need to work with both patients and their parents to get information. This is especially true for young children. Pediatricians examine patients and order lab tests. They explain test results and review treatment options with patients and their families. If more than one treatment option is available, they help families decide which option to choose. They also watch a patient's condition and make changes in the treatment if needed.

Pediatricians assign tasks to nurses and other health care workers. They often consult with other health care professionals. In private practice, pediatricians may oversee the business aspects of running an office. They keep detailed records about each patient. They write reports for insurance companies and government agencies that collect data on births and deaths.

Many pediatricians are primary care physicians. They see the same patients on a regular basis. When needed, they send patients to health care specialists for testing or treatment, especially if a patient needs a surgical procedure.

Pathway:

Health Science