



MID-JERSEY PEDIATRICS

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“I THINK MY CHILD NEEDS A SPECIALIST...”

These are words dear to the heart of your pediatrician who, as you already know, has spent many years training to become a specialist. Pediatric training entails long years of learning how to recognize and treat not only the routine common illnesses, but also the less common and even rare diseases of childhood.

None of us can know everything and there are certainly times when we find it necessary to call upon the skills and training of pediatric subspecialists. As practicing pediatricians, we are trained to recognize our limitations and to use the services of those with different training when the circumstances warrant it. We often learn things from our subspecialist colleagues and put those new concepts to use in our practice when we can.

Your pediatrician sees many more ear infections than the ear, nose and throat doctor and more cases of acne than the dermatologist to whom we refer. Most children with abdominal pain do not need to be seen by a gastroenterologist or a pediatric surgeon, and most children with runny noses and sneezing do not require the services of an allergist.

We will often consult within the practice when we see a puzzling set of symptoms, or an unusual rash, etc., and we are not hesitant to refer our patients to the subspecialists when the child's condition calls for another level of care. We have an excellent working relationship with all of the subspecialists in the community and we recognize their individual areas of expertise.

If you request a referral to a subspecialist, we are more than happy to consider that request. However, it is important that you recognize that, in the current managed care environment, your insurance may not cover the visit unless it is for an emergency or an illness or problem that falls beyond the scope of general pediatric care. It is our goal to provide you with the highest quality cost effective medical care available. We will always recommend the appropriate subspecialist when it is indicated, and we will discourage referrals when we feel they are not necessary.

If you have any specific question about referrals, do not hesitate to discuss them with your doctor.