

Specialists and What They Do

Specialists are doctors who have received training in a particular area, and so have special expertise that can help if you have a specific condition. In order to become a specialist, a physician must complete extra years of training as a resident in that specialty. The physician may also be board certified by meeting additional requirements and passing an exam.

Often, your Primary Care Physician (PCP) will refer you to a Specialist if they believe you need special care. However, with APWU Health Plan, you do not need a referral from a PCP, and can choose any doctor you wish. The following are some areas of specialization to which patients are often referred, and an explanation of the specialty from The American Board of Medical Specialties:

- Allergy and Immunology-disorders of the immune system
- Cardiovascular-diseases of the heart, lungs and blood vessels
- Dermatology-diseases and problems of the skin
- Endocrinology-disorders of the internal (endocrine) glands, such as thyroid and adrenal glands, and disorders such as diabetes
- Gastroenterology-diagnosis and treatment of diseases of the digestive organs, including stomach, bowels, liver and gall bladder
- Geriatric Medicine-problems and diseases of aging
- Neurology-diseases of the nervous system, brain, pituitary gland, spinal cord, and cranial and spinal nerves
- Obstetrics and Gynecology-disease and routine care of female reproductive system, pregnancy and birth
- Ophthalmology-comprehensive eye and vision care and ocular and vision disorders
- Orthopedic-disorders and preservation of the extremities and spine
- Otolaryngology-ear, nose, throat, head and neck disorders (ENT)
- Urology-disorders and conditions of the urinary or reproductive systems