

# What is a Pediatric Orthopedic Surgeon?

If your child has musculoskeletal (bone) problems, a *Pediatric Orthopedic Surgeon* has the experience and qualifications to treat your child.

## What kind of training do pediatric orthopedic surgeons have?

Pediatric orthopedic surgeons are medical doctors who have

- Graduated from an approved medical school
- Graduated from an approved orthopedic surgery residency program
- Completed additional subspecialty training in pediatric orthopedics

Pediatric orthopedic surgeons treat children from the newborn stage through the teenage years. They choose to make pediatric care the core of their medical practice, and the unique nature of medical and surgical care of children is learned from advanced training and experience in practice.

## What types of treatments do pediatric orthopedic surgeons provide?

Pediatric orthopedic surgeons diagnose, treat, and manage children's musculoskeletal problems including the following:

- Limb and spine deformities (such as club foot, scoliosis)
- Gait abnormalities (limping)
- Bone and joint infections
- Broken bones

## Where can I find a pediatric orthopedic surgeon?

Pediatric orthopedic surgeons practice in a variety of medical institutions including children's hospitals, university medical centers, and large community hospitals.

## Pediatric orthopedic surgeons — the best care for children

Children are not just small adults. They cannot always say what is bothering them. They cannot always answer medical questions, and are not always able to be patient and cooperative during a medical examination. Pediatric orthopedic surgeons know how to examine and treat children in a way that makes them relaxed and cooperative. In

addition, pediatric orthopedic surgeons often use equipment specially designed for children. Most pediatric orthopedic surgeons' offices are arranged and decorated with children in mind. This includes the examination rooms and waiting rooms, which may have toys, videos, and reading materials for children. This helps create a comfortable and nonthreatening environment for your child.

If your pediatrician suggests that your child see a pediatric orthopedic surgeon, you can be assured that he or she has the widest range of treatment options, the most extensive and comprehensive training, and the greatest expertise in dealing with children and in treating children's orthopedic disorders.

The information contained in this publication should not be used as a substitute for the medical care and advice of your pediatrician. There may be variations in treatment that your pediatrician may recommend based on individual facts and circumstances.

## From your doctor

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