



National Poll on Children's Health

Referral to Specialists – Survey Questions

Questions were answered by adult respondents age 18 and older with a child age 5-17.

Most children see a primary care provider – usually a pediatrician, family doctor, or nurse practitioner – for check-ups and minor illness.

Sometimes, the primary care provider will suggest that the child needs to see a specialist. This could be a **medical specialist** (like a neurologist, ear-nose-throat doctor, or cardiologist), or a **behavioral specialist** (like a psychiatrist, psychologist, counselor, or therapist).

Q1. Has a primary care provider ever suggested that your child(ren) needs to see a specialist?

Yes

No

Imagine this situation. At a regular check-up, the primary care provider tells you that your child should see a **medical specialist** for a consultation. It's not an emergency, but the primary care provider says it's important to consult with the specialist.

Q2. In setting up the appointment, who would you prefer to take responsibility for the following:

Select one response for each row.

	Parent	Primary care provider
Choosing the specialist		
Calling to set up the appointment		
Explaining the reason for the appointment		
Making sure insurance covers that specialist		
Making sure the wait time for the appointment isn't too long		
Providing medical records to the specialist		

Q3. In setting up a specialty appointment for your child, how important would the following be?

Select one response for each row.

	Very important	Somewhat important	Not important
The primary care provider recommends a specialist who knows how to take care of my child's specific condition.			
The specialist is affiliated with a highly-rated hospital or health system.			
The specialist has training in pediatrics (the care of children).			
Other parents recommend the specialist.			
The specialist is involved in research, so my child has access to the latest treatments.			
The drive time to the specialist is reasonable.			
The appointment is convenient for our family schedule.			

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