

## QUESTION OF THE WEEK



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## *When should my child start seeing an adult primary care physician?*



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SPECIAL TO THE NEWS-PRESS

Pediatricians are well-trained specialists who take care of newborns, children, adolescents and young adults, often until they finish college (age 21). Once kids reach 18 years old, legal young adults, they can see an adult primary care physician like an internal medicine doctor, general practitioner or a family medicine doctor.

The transition from pediatric to adult healthcare does not happen overnight. Before teenagers reach adulthood, they should be encouraged to take an active role with their health care during their teen years. They can be involved in making their own appointments, prescription refills and participate in their own medical decisions.

Parents can ask their pediatrician for help in finding an adult primary care physician. Pediatricians can also assist in finding adult specialists for children with chronic medical conditions.

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