

Provider Type	Abbreviation(s)	Who they care for	What they can do	Impact on your care
Physician (MD)	MD	All ages	Diagnose, prescribe, treat, perform procedures	Often emphasizes evidence-based treatment, diagnostics and specialized care pathways
Physician (DO)	DO	All ages	Diagnose, prescribe, treat, perform procedures	Emphasizes whole-person care, prevention and may incorporate hands-on treatment techniques
Family Nurse Practitioner	FNP, NP	All ages	Diagnose, treat, prescribe (state-dependent)	Preventive and chronic care; can perform annual wellness visits; collaborative care with MD/DO in some states
Adult-Gerontology NP	AGNP, NP	Adults & Seniors	Diagnose, treat, prescribe	Focused on adult/senior preventive care & chronic disease management
Pediatric NP	PNP, NP	Children & Adolescents	Diagnose, treat, prescribe	Pediatric wellness, immunization, growth/development monitoring
Physician Assistant	PA-C	All ages	Diagnose, treat, prescribe under supervision	Can perform wellness exams, chronic care, may refer complex cases to MD/DO
Registered Nurse	RN	All ages	Screenings, vitals, patient education	Supports care; cannot diagnose or prescribe; helps with preventive care
Licensed Practical Nurse	LPN	All ages	Basic care, vitals, education	Supportive role only; cannot diagnose, prescribe, or manage complex conditions