



Caring for the
Next Generation

7959 Broadway, Suites 600 & 604
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Dear Parent(s),

I am honored that you should choose me as your pediatrician, as there are many quality pediatricians in our community. Watching your child learn and grow over the years will be one of my biggest joys, and I am excited to come along side you providing medical care and support to the best of my ability.

Let me tell you a little about myself first. I am from Georgetown, Texas and have lived all over our great state before settling in San Antonio. My wife and I have fallen in love with this community and have no plans to leave. Speaking of my wife, we were married in 2006 in a small country church outside of Waco where we had served in youth, children's, and worship ministry together. I am blessed tremendously to have Amanda in my life. We are both graduates of Baylor University in Waco, and I am an avid Baylor sports fan. After marrying, Amanda and I moved to Galveston where I attended medical school at UTMB for four years. We then moved to San Antonio where I completed my pediatric residency at the Health Science Center, graduating in 2013.

Heritage Pediatrics is a new name given in 2013. Previously it was called The Children's Clinic – a pediatric medical practice which served the Alamo Heights area since 1956. When I came to Heritage there were three pediatricians: Dr. Fitch, Dr. Hall, and Dr. Tardy. These doctors impressed me with their knowledge, experience, and compassion, putting quality of patient care over quantity. We do not "share" patients, but you might see one of them on a Saturday or in the event that I am out of the office.

Here is some general information about our clinic:

Phones and Hours: M-F 8:00a-12:30p, 1:30-4:30p. (The doors open at 8am.) We roll them to the answering service during our lunch from 12:30-1:30p and again every evening at 4:30. All parents with sick or injured children feel a sense of urgency to reach our office as soon as the phone lines open. This means that between 8:00 and 9:00 and at 1:30-2:00 we receive a large volume of phone calls. If you are able to call during non-peak times you will experience shorter hold times and fewer busy signals.



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Saturdays: Our office is open for sick visits only. We begin at 8:00 and finish when the last patient is seen which is never later than 12:30p. These appointments book up early, so please call early if your child needs to be seen.

Answering Service: Our after-hours answering service is through Methodist Hospital. When our phones are rolled over you will hear my voice. If you press 1 you will get the Methodist nurse help line. If you press 0 you will get an operator who can have the on call doctor paged. The nurses do a wonderful job answering your childcare questions. If they recommend that you go to the ER, PLEASE ask to speak with the doctor on call before you go.

If our phones didn't get rolled over accidentally, you can call Methodist at 575-7000 and they can page us or transfer you to the nurse line. One of the four of us always takes call during the week. We rotate our call on the weekend. If you have a life threatening emergency, always call EMS or go to the nearest Emergency Department. Otherwise, please call us even after hours. We can often talk you through things on the phone, or direct you to the ED or pediatric urgent care center.

Newborns at the Hospital: We have admitting privileges at Methodist Children's Hospital. If you are delivering at Methodist, simply let the staff know that I am your pediatrician and they will contact me when the baby is born. We make our newborn hospital rounds between 7:00-8:00 every morning. The nurses will call us if there are questions at other times. There are neonatologists at the hospital if urgent issues arise. We see your baby every morning until discharge. Babies admitted to the NICU will be seen by the neonatologists until the baby is either ready to move to the term nursery or be discharged home. Please call me if your baby is admitted to the NICU so that I may be in touch with the care provider. If you plan to deliver at another hospital your baby will be seen by a pediatric staff member. Call our office during normal business hours to let us know of your baby's arrival and to set up your first appointment.

Post Hospital Newborn Visit: I like to see all first time parents and babies in my office 2-7 days after discharge from the hospital depending on the situation. At this visit I will check the baby's weight, examine the baby, and answer any questions that may have arisen since arrival home.

The rest of the well checks are as follows: 1 month, 2 months, 4 months, 6 months, 9 months, 12 months, 15 months, 18 months and 24 months. Annual visits are done thereafter.

Hospitalizations: If your child needs to be hospitalized for general pediatric issues, he/she will be admitted to a pediatric hospitalist team. That means I would not be writing orders for your child but will be following their progress closely.



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Childhood Continued Care: After the first two years of life, we like to see our patients annually for well exams through their high school years. There are a variety of changes that occur in childhood and adolescence, and my role is often to address and questions or concerns. I believe your child's health does not simply include their medical status. It also includes their emotional, social, and spiritual wellbeing. Please feel free to bring all aspects of life up at any visit.

Transitioning to Adult Medicine: I hope to see all my patients for sick and well visits until the age of 18. I will also be able to provide the needed medical care during the first year of college or work after high school. At that time, we can discuss adult doctors in our area. My staff and I want to make the transition as easy as possible for you and your adult child.

Immunizations Policy: I believe immunizations are critical to your child's protection. I am happy to discuss with you the concerns you may have regarding vaccines or my recommended schedule. Though we can alter the schedule some, please know that it is in the best interest of your child and other children in my practice to vaccinate as close to the recommended schedule as possible.

Thank you again for choosing me as your pediatrician. May God bless you and your family.

Sincerely,

John Gibson, MD, FAAP

Heritage Pediatrics

San Antonio, Texas