



Benton Pediatrics, Inc.

Board Certified Pediatrics

Emergencies: let us know “*it’s an emergency!*” and your call will be taken immediately.

Sick Visits: If your child is ill, call before noon and we will see you that day.

Saturdays: We open Saturday mornings to see ill patients. Please call @ 8:30 to make an appointment. We do not have staffing available to return phone calls on Saturdays.

Email: The most efficient way to deal with non-urgent questions.

Medical Questions: notneb@bellsouth.net

Email is checked Mon – Fri except holidays. If you haven’t received a response within 1 business day, please call the office.

Billing Questions?: try our new email address: bentonpedsbilling@yahoo.com

Routine Visits: Please call mid-morning or early afternoon to schedule a check up or other routine or non-urgent visit.

Return Phone Calls: We return non-urgent calls Monday – Friday except holidays - in the order received - before we leave for the day.

Pediatrics After Hours: To reach PAH, call our office for instructions. An appointment will be scheduled by PAH if necessary.

Prescriptions / Forms: Requests for prescription refills and medical forms require at least 2 working days to prepare.

Benton Pediatrics, Inc.

5612 NW 43rd Street • Gainesville, FL 32653-3332 • (352) 376-4542 • Fax: (352) 376-4959

notneb@bellsouth.net • Tom Benton, MD • Elizma Mercier, MPAS, PA-C • Beth Justice, CPNP • www.BentonPediatrics.com

The Benton Pediatrics mission:
"To serve our patients in a way that
is pleasing to the Lord"

The Flu

Flu Season Is Here Again

Each year we send you a reminder: consider getting the flu vaccine for your child.

Last year there was great concern about the "swine flu", and this year's vaccine includes protection for this strain of flu. It is true that thousands of people die every year from the flu although most people who get the flu do just fine.

If your child is less than 9 years old and this is his first season to be vaccinated, the experts (and I) recommend two vaccines separated by at least one month. The seasonal flu vaccine is available as FluMist, delivered to the patient's nose, or a flu shot.

Alachua County schools are offering to administer FluMist in the elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools for free, so consider getting your child vaccinated through this program. Free is an awfully good price! And, as usual, we have flu vaccine and FluMist available at Benton Pediatrics for your child as well.

Fall 2010

Welcome Ben Mercier!

For what seems like forever, Elizma, our Physician Assistant, and her husband, Brook, have wanted to adopt a newborn.

Without warning, their child arrived! Ben Mercier arrived August 9th and weighed 7 pounds 4 ounces. Please join us in welcoming Ben to the Benton Pediatrics family.

Elizma will reduce her hours at work at least for a season so that she can take care of her more important job of mom.

Thank you for your trust in us
It is our **PRIVILEGE**
to care for your child.

Our patients are the most important people in this practice - We see sick patients the same day they call, *even on Saturday*.

We are here to serve YOU!

Health Maintenance

We recommend "check-ups" at age 2 weeks, 2, 4, 6, 9, 12, 15, and 18 months, and then annually starting at 2 years of age.

Insurance

We accept most major insurance companies. Understanding your own health insurance coverage is very important.

You are responsible
for knowing what your coverage allows.

Office Hours

Monday – Friday 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Saturday 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM

- We See Patients by Appointment Only •

Confirm Your Appointment

Prescheduled appointments must be confirmed.

**Unconfirmed appointments
may be cancelled**

In order to accommodate all patients in a timely manner, it is important that appointments are kept. If appointments are not honored or are cancelled with insufficient notice, the treatment of other children is unnecessarily delayed.

You can confirm your appointment after hours via voice mail; just call 352-376-4542 for instructions, or you can email us at confirmbp@yahoo.com to confirm online.

Swim Safely

Drowning is the number one killer of children under five in Florida, and most drownings occur when it is warm outside, which in Florida can be nearly year-round.

- Never leave your child unsupervised.
- Make sure there are multiple barriers between your house and pool.
- Teach your child to swim and swim well.

Have a great, safe autumn!



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Automobile Safety

The safest place for all children
is in the rear seat

- Never place any infant or child less than 5' 2" in the front seat of a vehicle with a passenger-side air bag
- One Person – One Belt: two people using one belt could injure each other
- New Drivers: The more teenagers there are a car with a new teenage driver, the greater the chance of a fatal car crash!
Limit the number your teenager can carry.
- Children less than 4' 9" should still be riding in an approved booster seat. They can be killed or injured in an adult size lap or shoulder belt in the event of a crash.