



Rockwood Internal Medicine
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Deaconess Medical Center Hospitalist Program

Rockwood Internal Medicine is committed to providing our patients with the highest level of care. To ensure our patients receive this level of care, we are beginning a hospitalist program to provide care to our patients at Deaconess Medical Center.

What is a hospitalist?

A hospitalist, or “inpatient physician,” is a physician who specializes in caring for patients in the hospital. The hospitalist manages your course through the hospital, ordering tests and procedures, coordinating and consulting with specialists, closely monitoring your progress, and staying in close touch with you and your doctor. Our hospitalists are part of the Internal Medicine Department at Rockwood Clinic, P.S. and are residency-trained, board-certified physicians in Internal Medicine.

Will the hospitalist talk with my doctor?

When you are admitted to the hospital, your primary care doctor communicates with the hospitalist about your condition and transfers the management of your care to the hospitalist. The hospitalist develops a plan with your primary care doctor. The hospitalist remains in contact with each patient’s primary care physician. Your primary care physician will be informed about your care at discharge as well, and will receive a copy of your records. This two-way communication between the hospitalist and your primary care doctor enables a smooth transfer of care back to your primary care doctor.

How can the hospitalist benefit me?

Often when a patient is hospitalized, the primary care physician is not immediately available due to scheduled office hours or significant patient load. Hospitalists see only hospitalized patients, so they are readily available to respond to any changes in your condition, seeing you as often as necessary to provide you with the best care, and can arrange for immediate tests and assessments. Your hospitalist knows every specialist and department in the hospital, and will assist you through a smooth and speedy recovery process by following up on tests and adjusting your treatment regimen based on those test results.

Non-hospitalized patients also benefit from the hospitalist program. Before this program was in place, physicians would have to leave a waiting room full of patients and rush to the hospital if there was an emergency. Now, physicians can be assured that their hospitalized patients are getting the best of care without interrupting their daily office schedule. After patients are discharged, the primary-care physician once again assumes their ongoing care.