Specialty Information: Internal Medicine

Internists are personal physicians who provide long-term comprehensive care in the office and the hospital, managing both common and complex illness of adolescents, adults, and the elderly. Internists are trained in the diagnosis and treatment of cancer, infections, and diseases affecting the heart, blood, kidneys, joints and digestive, respiratory, and vascular systems. They are also trained in the essentials of primary care internal medicine which incorporates an understanding of disease prevention, wellness, substance abuse, mental health, and effective treatment of common problems of the eyes, ears, skin, nervous system, and reproductive organs.¹

Internists can receive training in the following subspecialties / fellowships:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adolescent Medicine</th>
<th>Infectious Disease</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cardiovascular Disease</td>
<td>Interventional Cardiology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clinical Cardiac Electrophysiology</td>
<td>Medical Oncology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Critical Care Medicine</td>
<td>Nephrology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Endocrinology, Diabetes &amp; Metabolism</td>
<td>Pulmonary Disease</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gastroenterology</td>
<td>Rheumatology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Geriatric Medicine</td>
<td>Sleep Medicine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hematology</td>
<td>Sports Medicine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hospice and Palliative Medicine</td>
<td>Transplant Hepatology</td>
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Training/Residency

The residency for general internal medicine is three years. To practice in an internal medicine subspecialty requires from one to three years of additional training.

AOA residency training opportunities are listed here: http://opportunities.osteopathic.org/index.htm

Statewide Campus System (SCS)

The (SCS) is made up of 46 training hospitals and 31 FQHCs in Michigan. There are 222 approved postdoctoral training programs representing 46 specialties throughout the state. Michigan currently has 265 Internal Medicine residents training in 16 osteopathic IM programs (2013). More information about these programs can be found at: http://scs.msu.edu

Salary Information

According to Salary.com the average annual salary for an Internal Medicine Physician in Michigan ranges from approximately $141,500 – $225,000+.²


For more information about the specialty

- American College of Osteopathic Internists (www.acoi.org)
- American Board of Internal Medicine (www.abim.org)
- Society of General Internal Medicine (www.sgim.org)

References

2 Information link to a salary search performed on www.salary.com

Sept 2013
Sample Questions to Ask When Exploring A Career in Internal Medicine

- How much time do you spend providing inpatient care vs. outpatient care?
- How much time do you spend doing chart documentation and other patient paperwork (insurance requests, prescription refills, etc.)?
- Which journals do you read regularly?
- Do you sub-specialize?
- Are you actively involved in research? How much time do you spend in research activities?
- What is a typical day like for you as a general internist?
- Do you practice OMT with your patients? If so, about what percentage of your patients do you practice OMT on? Is it more at the request of the patient, or your suggestion?
- Do you work in a rural or urban area? What are the pros & cons of practicing in this type of community?
- How has your job changed over the past 5 years?
- What are the most frequent types of cases you see on a daily basis?
- How often are you on-call?
- How many patients do you usually see in a day or a week?
- How many hours a week do you actually work? What are your feelings on work-life balance for a general internist?
- How do you feel about working with different age ranges? Do you have a preference?
- How much time do you spend providing diagnostic care vs. doing in-office procedures? What types of procedures do you perform most often?
- How much business knowledge do you use as a general internist?
- What kind of employment model do you work in (e.g. solo practice, group practice, private practice, hospital employed, etc.)? What do you consider to be the pros and cons of these models?
- How much professional liability insurance does a general internist need to carry? About how much does that cost annually?