



Controlling Costs by Accessing More Affordable Care

Overview

This reference is designed to help you save money on health care by making smarter decisions:

- Where to be seen?
- What kind of doctor is best for your particular medical needs (including whether to see a Specialist or a Generalist?)
- Techniques for reducing costs?

It explains the basics of how doctors charge for their services so you can more easily predict and control your costs. It has been updated to help folks with Health Savings Accounts better access more affordable services. For instance, did you know that many doctors will charge you more if you are referred to them by another physician than they would if you went to see them on your own! Knowing information like this can help you save money.

Should You Go to the Emergency Room?

If you go to an Emergency room, it will usually cost much more than it would to be seen in a doctor's office!

Some problems are so severe that they should be managed in the emergency room. If the problem is very severe (such as severe chest pain), rapidly worsening or appears to be progressively limiting the ability to breathe, stay conscious, move about or move an extremity, then you probably need to be seen in the emergency room. Dial 911 for true emergencies or have a family member or friend drive you to the nearest emergency room.

If you already know which doctor you want to see, you may be able to get advice over the phone about whether you need to go to the emergency room or where else you can be evaluated.

Non-emergency: How to Find the Right Doctor

If you are seen by a physician and then referred to another physician, it may cost you as much as or more than twice what you would pay if you were to see the right physician from the start. The following steps may help you identify the most appropriate physician to see from the start.

1. Use the "[Problem Chart \(Under Construction\)](#)" to help identify what type of Doctor (Specialty?) might be appropriate to see.
2. Review the Specialty descriptions using the references in the "Problem Chart." Decide what type of Doctor (what specialties) might handle your problem.
3. Call those types of Doctors and inquire as to whether these doctors manage your particular type of problem. The [American Board of Medical Specialties](#) has links to its Member Boards. These Member Boards can usually identify "Board Certified" physicians in the specialty you are looking for in your area.

How to Save Money with HSA Qualifying High Deductible Insurance

Covered Benefits

Your insurance policy describes what kinds of medical services are “covered benefits”. This means that the insurance company will pay for certain medical services (covered benefits) and the cost of these covered services that you pay out-of-pocket count toward meeting your annual deductible and out of pocket maximum limits.

Some medical services are NOT covered by your insurance (not a covered benefit) and anything you pay for these services generally does not count towards your deductible or your maximum out-of-pocket annual expense limit.

Even if it is a “Covered Benefit”, you need to know what your out-of-network coverage is before you receive care from an out-of-network provider!

Be aware that the cost of “covered services” provided by [out-of-network](#) physicians or hospitals may not count toward your annual deductible or maximum out-of-pocket limits. The insurance policy may establish different deductibles and maximum out-of-pocket limits for out-of-network care, and that coverage can range from nearly the same as in-network coverage to absolutely no insurance coverage at all for out-of-network providers.

Qualified “Medical” Expenses NOT the same as “Covered Benefits”

The federal government describes what expenses can be reimbursed on a tax-free basis from the funds in one’s Health Savings Account (see [IRS Publication 502, “Medical and Dental Expenses”](#) and [IRS Publication 969, “Health Savings Accounts and Other Tax Favored Health Plans”](#)). These are generally called “Qualified Medical Expenses”. “Qualified Medical Expenses” are NOT the same thing as “covered benefits”.

Covered Benefits are those expenses that an insurance policy describes as insured and which if incurred will either be reimbursed or will count toward meeting you deductible and out-of-pocket maximum under your HSA qualifying policy.

The Federal government is really quite generous with regard to what one can reimburse tax-free from an HSA. Unfortunately, insurance company definitions of what are “covered benefits” are almost always much more restrictive than the federal government’s definition of qualified expenses.

Be careful; the fact that the expense is reimbursable tax-free from the HSA in no way means they are covered expenses from the insurance perspective.

Explanation of Benefits (EOBs)

Once services are billed to the insurance company, eventually (and this may take quite some time) both you and the doctor’s office will receive an Explanation of Benefits (EOB) from the insurance company. The EOB will show the charges (usually [CPT Codes](#) for physician services) that were billed for your care. Check them using the link provided to make sure they accurately describe the care you received from your doctor (see [AMA CPT Code Search](#) to identify what various codes mean).

The EOB will generally show what services the physician provided and his or her charges, what the insurance company allows for that service and what portion of the bill will be your responsibility to pay. If this is an in-network physician (a provider with the contracted PPO) then you get the same discounted rate that the insurance company would get if it were paying the bill.

If you haven't met your deductible, then you will need to pay the full allowed amount up to the deductible.

Once you have met your deductible, you may still have to meet an annual maximum out of pocket expense limit. So, you may be required to pay some portion of the remaining charges above your deductible depending on what your insurance policy says (e.g. you might pay 50% of the remaining allowed amount, while the insurance company pays the other half up until you meet your maximum out-of-pocket limit.

Once you have met your maximum out-of-pocket expense, then the insurance company should pay all of the allowed expenses for covered benefits in-network.

In-Network

Most high deductible insurance policies have networks of Preferred Providers (the insurance companies use Preferred Provider Organizations, PPOs). This means that the insurance company has access to pre-negotiated discounted fees for the doctors, hospitals and other health care providers in their network.

If you have PPO insurance and are seeing an in-network provider, once you identify yourself as having PPO coverage the doctors are required to bill the insurance company for any services you receive.

If you are seeing an in-network provider and you want to have your insurance company billed, then let the doctor's office know you have that kind of PPO insurance coverage in advance.

Out-of-Network

A mistake here could cost you a lot of money!

If you go out-of-network, you might have limited or even no insurance coverage at all. Federal law allows insurance companies to write HSA qualifying insurance policies that have different coverage limits for out-of-network care than they do for in-network care.

An exception MAY be for true emergency services. For instance, if you have heart attack and are taken emergently to an out-of-network hospital and are cared for by out-of-network physicians, most policies will have at least some degree of coverage for those emergency services. Clearly when choosing a policy and after getting your policy, you should familiarize yourself in advance on how out-of-network coverage will work.

How to Save Money by Paying the Bill in Full at the Time of Service with No Insurance Paperwork.

Find Out What You Must Do To Qualify For a Discount

Many doctors, hospitals and other health care providers offer significant discounts for full payment at the time of service without billing or insurance paperwork to complete. Ask if this kind of

discount is available and what types of payment are acceptable. Try to get an estimate of what the visit or procedure may cost and remember to bring a check, cash or other suitable form of payment with you to the office, so you can qualify for the discount.

For a surgical procedure or service provided outside a doctor's office, you can often still get a discount if you pay the full amount in cash prior to the surgery or procedure; ask?

Also ask what happens if your payment by check or money order should fail to clear (your check bounces). You are likely then responsible to pay not only the non-discounted fee, but also a substantial penalty for the bounced check.

What Is and Is Not Discounted?

Are the Doctor's professional services discounted? Will there be an assistant and are these fees discounted/ included. What about other professional services such as radiology, pathology, anesthesiology? These services may be billed separately and you may be able to arrange a discount for them too, if you pay in full in advance?

Laboratory and other diagnostic procedures or services may not be discounted, ask! Inquire about the cost and whether a discount is available for pre-payment prior to having these services performed.

Supplies or medications may not be included. Ask the cost and if there is a discount prior to receiving these supplies or medications.

What To Do When Referred To Another Doctor?

Suppose you see a physician who offers discounts for payment in full and in cash (check or money order) at the time of service, but then you are referred for consultation to another Physician? Or, what should you do if your doctor is not available and another doctor is taking his calls? You have two options:

1. Discuss/ negotiate a similar discount relationship with the covering physician.
2. Choose another doctor.

Will the doctor Offer a Discount?

If a Physician that you have already seen has checked out to an "on call" doctor, then you might want to consider discussing the same cash discount with the covering Physician. In most cases a covering physician will not charge you a New Patient fee (see "[New versus Established Patient](#)").

In many cases Doctors who are covering for other Doctors will agree to accept the same payment terms as the Physician for whom they are covering. Unfortunately, this is not always the case and you should always ask before you are seen or receive treatment.

Choose Another Specialist?

When you are paying the bills, you are not obligated to see any particular physician, even if you are referred by your current doctor.

An "on call" doctor, or even a doctor in the same office as a Participating Physician, is not required to give you a discount. (An exception to this rule may be if the offer of discount is the policy of the group, and you are seeing a member of that group.)

What to Do If You Can Not Pay the Full Amount?

Most doctors are sensitive to the high cost of medical care and the impact these costs have on their patients. If you are unable to pay the entire amount owed at the time of service, the Doctor may no longer offer to discount his or her services.

Usually the Doctor's office manager will be able to work out a payment schedule for you, if you are unable to pay the full amount. You may not be eligible for a discount in this case, but at least you won't be jeopardizing your credit history. The best way to manage this situation is to always work these problems out in advance, prior to receiving the doctor's services.

How Charges Are Calculated

Codes

Most physician charges are based on "Current Procedural Terminology" codes (CPT codes). Codes are numbers which are assigned to specific medical services. There are Evaluation and Management (E & M) codes as well as procedure or surgical codes.

For example, code #99241 (an E & M code) is defined as an office visit for a person referred by another physician for evaluation (a Consultation.) It includes a low complexity problem with a limited history and physical examination. The visit would be about 20 minutes in total length.

Code #99245 on the other hand is an office visit for a person referred by another physician for evaluation. It includes a highly complex problem evaluation with an extended focus, complete history and physical examination. The visit would be about 110 minutes in total length.

Code #49505 is a surgical code for a hernia repair operation.

There are literally thousands of different codes for physician services and not all physicians use codes or even the same set of codes. Just to complicate things further, each physician may charge a different price for each code.

A physician can not always tell you what his charges will be until he has actually evaluated you. Something that might have appeared simple on first glance could easily end up being very complex and involved.

Price comparisons in advance are very difficult due to the variability of codes used, fees charged, and the variety of illnesses treated.

Despite these complexities most doctors tend to charge roughly the same way for evaluating most of their patients. This means that the doctor's office staff can usually give you an estimate and a range for their doctor's usual charges to see a new patient or to see a patient for a follow up visit.

Most doctors realize that *cash* patients want to control the cost of their care. If your Doctor knows in advance that you are a cash patient, he or she will usually work with you to help keep the charges down. Therefore it is wise to let the doctor know in advance that you are a *cash* patient so that you both can work together.

New versus Established Patient

When you go to see the doctor for the first time, expect to pay 2-4 times more than you will for subsequent visits to the same Doctor. On the first visit the Doctor will likely gather a history of

your general medical situation. Although much of the information collected may not seem pertinent to your particular problem, this general information helps the Doctor properly diagnose your complaint and safely prescribe appropriate treatments. As each patient has a different problem and medical history, it is difficult to predict precisely the charges in advance.

Ask the Doctor's staff for an *estimate* of his charges in advance. The staff ought to be able to give you a range of charges and the average charge to see a new patient.

If you have not been seen in a Doctor's office for quite some time, the Doctor may charge you for a New Patient Visit in order to update all the necessary information. The period of time after which your visit is considered a New Patient Visit varies from doctor to doctor. Do not hesitate to ask the Doctor or his staff about this.

Consultation versus Non-referred

When you go see a Doctor for the first time, you have either selected that Doctor yourself (non-referred) or have been referred to that Doctor by another physician (a consultation).

If you have been referred by another physician it is called a "Consultation." **It will generally cost more to see a new doctor in consultation than it would if went to see the Doctor on your own (non-referred).**

This difference in charge is based on two things. First, a patient referred by another physician will likely have a more complex problem. Second, the consulting physician must prepare a report to the referring physicians on his findings and recommendations. This cost the Doctor time and money, and therefore increases his fees.

By seeing the right Doctor on your own, you may be able to cut your costs by more than half!

1. You avoid having to pay the first doctor who saw you and referred you to the second doctor.
2. If you see a doctor on your own, without being referred, the doctor is likely to charge you less for the visit!

Procedures/ Operations

Unit Values and Conversion Factors

Virtually every service and surgical procedure has been assigned a procedure code (CPT Code). These CPT Codes have been assigned **Unit Values**. Unit Values attempt to standardize charges by estimating the degree of difficulty or complexity for specific surgical procedures. For instance a heart bypass operation is assigned many more units than a hernia repair.

Many surgeons use a conversion factor for surgical Unit values to assign their charges for surgical procedures. Thus, if the surgeon's conversion factor is \$200.00/ Unit and a procedure is assigned 5 Units, then that surgeon's charge would be \$1000.00 for that particular procedure.

Unfortunately many surgeons do not use conversion factors. They simply assign a charge to a particular procedure.

Also, there is more than one system for assigning unit values. Thus, depending on what unit value system is used, the same procedure may have completely different unit values assigned. A

Physician's conversion factor will be specific for a particular unit value system, and his competitors may use a different unit value system.

All this makes a general comparison of surgical fees very difficult if not impossible. The best way to comparatively shop for a surgical procedure is to find what the CPT Code is for the operation you need. Call some of the Club's listed specialist to find out what they charge for that CPT Code. If there is a significant difference, you might consider seeing a different surgeon or you could try bargaining a better rate with the Surgeon you have already seen. That is usually is not successful, but it might be worthwhile before changing physicians. Remember, when you go to see another surgeon, you will also have to pay that Doctor to be evaluated again. Few Doctors are likely to operate on you on the basis of another Doctor's recommendations alone.

Additional Charges

Charges for laboratory tests (blood, urine etc.) and supplies (bandages, medications, etc.) are likely additional charges. **Supplies and laboratory tests are not covered under our contract with the Physician** and may not be discounted. Ask if the discount applies before you receive the supplies or before the test are done. You may be able to purchase these items at far less a price elsewhere.

How to Select a Doctor

Physician Qualifications/ Board Certification

Almost all physicians complete a full college education followed by four years of medical school in order to become licensed by the State of California to practice Medicine. Other states usually have similar requirements for licensing.

Once licensed, a physician can begin to practice medicine. Often physicians who chose not to specialize are called "General Practitioners" or "Primary Care" physicians. This can be somewhat confusing as many physicians that have completed specialty training are also called "Primary Care" physicians. See "[Specialist or Generalist](#)".

The volume of medical knowledge has exploded over the past 100 years. It became clear that no physician could master all the fields of knowledge, nor could a single physician stay abreast of all the changes in techniques and instrumentation accompanying these rapid medical advances. Thus medical specialties were formed.

Once the need for specialty training was apparent it also became apparent that the training needed to be formally structured in order to assure quality medicine to the public.

This need for quality assurance gave rise to Specialty Boards. These Specialty Boards determine the requirements, both training and testing, that insure that a specialist is in fact properly trained and able.

Most Specialty Boards require a standard number of years of additional of training after Medical School at a Board approved Specialty Training Programs (Residency Programs.) A physician who completes this approved training is sometimes called **Board Eligible**. Board Eligible physicians are eligible to take a rigorous written and oral Board Certification examination. Only after successful completion of all training and testing is a physician then **Board Certified** in his or her specialty.

As the volume of medical knowledge continued to expand, some specialties identified a need for further *subspecialty certification*. An example of this would be a Cardiologist. Cardiologists are Board Certified in Internal Medicine and then go on to complete an additional minimum of two years of subspecialty training in *Cardiovascular Disease*. After subspecialty training the physician must successfully complete testing administered by the **Subspecialty Board** in order to become Subspecialty Board certified.

Unfortunately, there are few legal restrictions on what a physician may claim with regard to his or her expertise. While a physician may claim to be a “Neurosurgeon,” unless he is Board Certified there is no independent verification of his level of competency in that field. **Generally it is probably more prudent to see Board Certified or Board Eligible specialists.**

The [American Board of Medical Specialties](#) (ABMS) is a cooperative body of Specialty Boards that determines what specialties are in fact acknowledged as Medical Specialties. Many areas of medicine may deserve recognition as a specialty, others may not. If a physician should claim to be a “Specialist” in “Southern California prune juice therapy” does that body of knowledge represent a legitimate specialty with definable benefits to patients? Most credentialing organizations chose to use the American Board of Medical Specialty and Subspecialty approved listings.

Specialist or Generalist?

What is a Generalist and what is a Specialist?

Suppose you have a funny noise in your car. You open the hood yourself and look around and you still can't figure out where the noise is coming from, so you take the car to a service station mechanic. The Service station mechanic opens the hood and thinks it has something to do with the transmission. He adds more transmission fluid, but that doesn't help. He then says that as this doesn't appear to be a simple problem, and he suggest you see a transmission specialist.

In a sense the service station mechanic is acting as a **Generalist**. He can manage many problems himself. Or, he can determine which **Specialist** should best manage the problem. Primary Care is another term used for **Generalist** but it does not indicate whether the physician has actually received additional specialty training as a **Generalist**.

A **Specialist** has in-depth knowledge of his field. He can generally handle problems in his area of expertise from beginning to end. Most **Specialists** do not deal with problems outside of their specialty training. They may refer you to other Specialists or a Generalist.

As discussed previously in “[Consult versus Non-referred](#)”, if you direct yourself to the *proper* specialist at first, you will likely save money.

What type of Specialty Doctors are Generalists?

American Board of Medical Specialties recognizes the following three specialties as **Generalists**:

- Pediatricians treat children and adolescents
- Internal Medicine physicians treat adults and adolescents
- Family Practice physicians treat all ages.

What other Factors Should Be Considered before Choosing a Generalist or Specialist?

Recurrent Problem or Severe

If the problem is permanent or a recurring problem, it might be better to see a Specialist. Often their expertise in the area can reduce your long term medical costs and complications.

Future Needs

If you want to establish a relationship with a Physician for periodic, routine general examinations, such as well baby examinations, blood pressure checks or cholesterol management then it may make sense to see a Generalist.

Location

Is the Physician's office conveniently located? Remember, when you are sick you may not be able to drive, even a short distance.

Affordability

General Considerations

Look for Doctors who are willing to offer the better discounts for full cash payment. Unfortunately, a discount is only half of the equation. If a doctor charges twice as much for his or her services than other doctors, a 50% discount merely brings the cost back to average. Medicare has set fee for various localities with respect to what physicians will get paid for their services according to CPT codes. While most physicians charge significantly more than what Medicare pays, knowing the Medicare rate is a good start for evaluating how affordable a particular physician may be. Remember, the federal government is the largest purchaser of health care services and can set its own fees. You can find Medicare fees for different services and localities at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/physicians/mpfsapp/default.asp>

Verifying Usual Charges

Despite the very useful information that you can get from various sources, in order to get the doctor's specific fee information, you will have to contact the individual physician for his or her charges and the discount he or she offers.

Computing Estimated Cost

Your actual cost (affordability) is determined by both the discount and the charge. You can use the following formula to predict the actual cost for each physician:

$$\text{Actual Cost} = (100 \% - \{ \text{Percent Discount} \}) \times \{ \text{Physician's Charge} \}$$

Suppose you call a doctor and you ask his staff how much discount he or she will offer for full payment in cash and how much he generally charge to see a new patient. Let's say he offers a forty percent discount and generally charges \$100.00 to see a new patient.

$$\text{Percent Discount} = 40\% \qquad \text{Physician's Charge} = \$100.00$$

Use the formula as follows to estimate the actual cost to see that doctor:

Percent Discount = 40%

Actual Cost = (100-{Percent Discount}) X {Physician's Charge}

Actual Cost = (100-{40}) X {Physician's Charge}

Actual Cost = (60%) X {Physician's Charge}

Physician's Charge = \$100.00

Actual Cost = 60% X {Physician's Charge}

Actual Cost = 60% X {\$100.00}

Actual Cost = \$60.00

Language Needs

If you don't speak English well, you may want a doctor that speaks your native language, or you may want a doctor whose native language is English if you have trouble understanding language accents?

Identifying the Right kind of Doctor

Specialist or Generalist?

If you can't figure out which **Specialist** to see, you probably ought to be seeing a **Generalist**. A **Generalist** can treat most minor problems. Also, a **Generalist** can help decide which **Specialist** to see. However, if you are subsequently referred to a **Specialist**, it will cost you more than if you had gone see that **Specialist** on your own.

The following is a list of American Board of Medical Specialties approved **Generalists**:

[Family Practice:](#) Children, Adolescents, and Adults

[Internal Medicine:](#) Adolescents and Adults

[Pediatrics:](#) Children and Adolescents

The **Primary Care** listing in the **Directory** identifies physicians who practice as **Generalists**, but who have not been certified by the American Board of Medical Specialties.

The problem chart is designed to help you locate a doctor who can treat you without needing to refer you to another Doctor. It is organized according to areas of the body, such as head, neck, back, abdomen etc. If your problem involves a certain area, locate the section that covers that area in the index.

The chart will contain links to various specialties that may manage particular problems. Review the specialty descriptions and choose the type of physician that is likely to best handle your problem. Once you have identified the type of specialist you need to you can try the local Medical Society or the American Board of Medical Specialties and their member specialty board to locate doctors in your area..

Problem Chart (((Under Construction)))

This very simple problem chart is intended to help you narrow your search for the most appropriate physician for your particular problem. If in doubt, consult a [Generalist](#)

Problem Area	Generalist or Specialist
General	Generalist
Weight	
Fever	
Emotional or Behavioral Problem	
Head	
General	
Dizziness	
Headache	
Brain	
Ears	
Eyes	
Face	
Mouth	
Nose	
Scalp	
Sinuses	
Skull	
Throat	
Neck	
General	
Swallowing	
Lumps/Lymph Nodes	
Spine	
Thyroid	
Windpipe, Voice, Vocal Cords	
Torso	
General	
Armpit/ Axilla	
Breasts	
Chest	
Collar Bones/ Clavicles	
Heart	
Lungs	
Shoulder Blades/ Scapula	
Ribs	
Breast Bone	
Arm	

Shoulder	
Biceps	
Elbow	
Forearm	
Hand	
Abdomen	
General	
Belly Button/ Naval	
Belly/ Pannus	
Gallbladder	
Groin/ Inguinal Area	
Intestines	
Liver	
Pancreas	
Stomach	
Pelvis and Hips	
Buttocks	
Hip Joint	
Pubic Bone	
Back	
General	
Anus	
Flank/ Side	
Rectum	
Spine	
Tail Bone/ Coccyx or Sacrum	
Female Genitals	
General	
External Vaginal Area/ Vulva	
Vagina	
Cervix	
Uterus	
Ovaries	
Fallopian Tube	
Male Genitals	
General	
Penis	
Prostate	
Scrotum	
Testicles	

Urinary Tract	
General	
Kidneys	
Bladder	
Urethra	
Leg	
General	
Thigh	
Knee	
Lower Leg	
Foot	
Skin	

Specialty Description Overview

What follows is a listing of Medical Specialty and Subspecialty descriptions (See Page 7).

The Specialties and Subspecialties are grouped into two major categories:

1. Physician Specialties (MD/DO)

The individual Physician Specialty and Subspecialty descriptions include the following types of information as applicable:

- Minimum Board Certification Requirements/ Years of Training after completing Medical School and State Licensure.
- A general description of the Specialty as it applies to patient care. This will include where applicable, samples of common disorders treated by the specialist.

Use these descriptions in conjunction with the Problem Chart (see page 7) to help decide which type of specialist you need to see. Many specialties overlap with regard to treating various problems. For instance many surgical specialties treat non-surgical illnesses. Family Practice and Pediatrics both treat children. The descriptions are intended to help you decide which, of possibly several different specialties, is most appropriate for you.

The word “**comprehensive**” when used in the specialty description indicates a specialist who has, in almost all cases, the expertise to handle any problems in his area of interest without the need to refer patients to another doctor. Seeing a **comprehensive** specialist may save you money in the long run (see [How Charges are Calculated](#)).

Physician Specialties (MD/DO)

Allergy and Immunology

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

Board Certification in Internal Medicine or Pediatrics (3 Years) plus 2 years of Specialty training in Allergy and Immunology: Total **5 years**.

General Description:

The evaluation and treatment of allergic or immunologic diseases such as hives, allergic asthma. Allergic reactions to food, insects, drugs, inhaled or contacted substance. Skin testing and allergy treatment

Recognized Subspecialties

Diagnostic Laboratory Immunology

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

Board Certification Allergy and Immunology: 5 years plus 1 year of Diagnostic Laboratory Immunology: Total **6 years**.

General Description:

Complex laboratory testing or procedures used to diagnose or treat allergic reactions or diseases related abnormal immunologic responses.

Anesthesiology (Anesthesiologist)

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

General Internship 1 year plus 3 years Specialty training in Anesthesiology: Total **4 years**

General Description:

The administration of anesthetics (drugs for control or relief of pain) during and immediately following surgical procedures. Anesthesiologists are responsible for maintaining normal bodily function (breathing, control of blood pressure, etc.) during and immediately following surgery. They are expert in the use of ventilators (artificial breathing machinery.) Anesthesiologists often manage long term pain control.

Recognized Subspecialties

Critical Care Medicine

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

Board Certification in Anesthesiology: 4 years plus 1 or more years Specialty Critical Care Medicine

General Description:

The **comprehensive** care and management of severely ill patients, primarily within the intensive or critical care unit of a hospital.

Pain Management

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

Board Certification in Anesthesiology: 4 years plus 1 or more years Specialty Training in Pain Management: Total **5+ years**

General Description:

The **comprehensive** management of short and long term pain problems, both in and outside of the hospital setting.

Colon and Rectal Surgery (Proctologist)

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

Board Certification or Eligibility in General Surgery: 5 years plus 1 year Specialty training in Colon and Rectal Surgery: Total **6 years**

General Description:

The **comprehensive** diagnosis and treatment (surgical and non-surgical) of diseases involving the colon (large intestine) and rectum. Common problems managed include hemorrhoids, fistulas, abscesses, colon cancer and polyps, incontinence of stool, diverticulitis, Chrono's Disease, and ulcerative colitis.

Colon and Rectal surgeons are skill in both standard surgical procedures as well as endoscopic (use of lighted telescopes within the intestinal tract) management of colon and rectal disease.

Dermatology (Dermatologist)

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

General internship 1 year plus 3 years specialty training: Total **4 years**

General Description:

The **comprehensive** diagnosis and management of disorders arising from or affecting the skin including the scalp, face, genitalia (penis, scrotum, anus, and external vaginal area.) Common problems managed include balding, melanoma, moles, skin cancer, rashes, skin infections poison ivy, lice, scar management, allergic skin reactions, psoriasis, warts, and acne.

Recognized Subspecialties

Dermatopathology

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

Board Certification in Dermatology: 4 years plus 1 year of specialty training in Dermatopathology: Total **5 years**

General Description:

The microscopic and chemical analysis, of skin related tissue for arriving at a diagnosis of the disorder.

Dermatological Immunology/ Diagnostic Laboratory Immunology

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

Board Certification in Dermatology: 4 years plus 1 year of specialty training in Dermatological Immunology/ Diagnostic Laboratory Immunology: Total 5 years

General Description:

The laboratory analysis of *immunologic* (the bodies system for defense against disease) skin related disorders and the application of findings to the proper treatment of those disorders.

Emergency Medicine

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

3 years of specialty training in Emergency Medicine: Total 3 years

General description:

The initial evaluation and early treatment of Emergency medical illnesses or injury. This specialty is primarily located in hospital emergency rooms where patients come for urgent evaluation of medical problems. Usually the Emergency Medicine Physician does not himself provide follow up treatment of the illness he evaluates; rather he refers the patient for admission to an appropriate specialist or outpatient follow up by an appropriate specialist.

Recognized Subspecialties

Medical Toxicology

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

Board Certification in Emergency Medicine: 3 years plus special testing: Total 3 years

General Description:

Experts in the diagnosis and management of poisoning, drug over doses, and hazardous materials exposure

Pediatric Emergency Medicine

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

Board Certification in Emergency Medicine: 3 years plus special testing: Total 3 years

General Description:

The treatment of childhood emergencies primarily in the emergency room setting. See Pediatrics.

Sports Medicine

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

Board Certification in Emergency Medicine: 3 years plus special testing: Total **3 years**

General Description:

Expertise in the health maintenance and injury prevention of persons engaged in physical exertion (sports)

Family Practice (Family Practitioner)

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

3 years of specialty training in Family Practice: Total **3 years**

General Description:

A “**Generalist**” with broad based training in the diagnosis of illness or injury and the referral to appropriate specialists for the management of more serious or complicated illnesses. Can provide care on a continuing basis to all family members with regard to illness prevention as well as treatment of many common problems or injuries.

Recognized Subspecialties

Geriatric Medicine

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

3 years of specialty training in Family Practice: Total **3 years**

General Description:

A Family Practice Physician who has a broad based knowledge including prevention, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation of illnesses and problems of the elderly.

Sports Medicine

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

3 years of specialty training in Family Practice: Total **3 years**

General Description:

A Family Practice Physician who has expertise in the health maintenance and injury prevention of persons engaged in physical exertion (sports)

General Surgery

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

5 years of special training in General Surgery: Total **5 years**

General Description:

The evaluation and primarily surgical treatment of a broad spectrum of illnesses involving many areas of the body including the neck, thyroid and parathyroid glands, breasts, abdomen, intra-abdominal gastrointestinal organs, extremities including the hand, major trauma, and vasculature (blood vessels).

Recognized Subspecialties

General Vascular Surgery

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

Board Certification in General Surgery 5 years plus special testing in General Vascular Surgery: Total 5 years

General Description:

A Board Certified General Surgeon with special expertise in the **comprehensive** management of surgical disorders of the blood vessels excepting those blood vessels entering or next to brain, heart and lungs.

Hand Surgery

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

Board Certification in General Surgery 5 years plus special testing in Hand Surgery: Total 5 years

General Description:

A General Surgeon with special expertise in the **comprehensive** surgical and non-surgical treatment of arm and hand problems. Common problems treated include trauma with injuries to nerves, tendons, or muscles, bursitis, amputations, tendonitis, and prosthetic devices for hand or arm function.

Pediatric Surgery

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

Board Certification in General Surgery 5 years plus special testing in Pediatric Surgery: Total 5 years

General Description:

A Board Certified General Surgeon with special expertise in the **comprehensive** management of surgical disorders of infants and children.

Surgical Critical Care

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

Board Certification in General Surgery 5 years plus special testing in Surgical Critical Care: Total 5 years

General Description:

A Board Certified General Surgeon with special expertise in the **comprehensive** management of the critically ill and post operative patient including trauma victims. These services usually are rendered in the intensive care, trauma, or burn units.

Internal Medicine (Internist)

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

3 years of specialty training in Internal Medicine: Total **3 years**

General Description:

A “**Generalist**” with broad based training in caring for adolescents, adults, and the elderly. Can provide long term care in terms of the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of illness. He or she is skilled in the referral of patients with complicated or severe problems to appropriate specialists or subspecialist.

Recognized Subspecialties

Adolescent Medicine

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

3 years of specialty training in Internal Medicine plus special testing: Total **3 years**

General Description:

An Internal Medicine specialist who has advanced training regarding care of the adolescent patient. See Internal Medicine

Cardiovascular Disease (Cardiologist)

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

Board Certification in Internal Medicine: 3 years plus 3 years special training in Cardiovascular Medicine: Total **6 years**

General Description:

The **comprehensive** diagnosis and treatment of diseases of the heart, blood vessels, and lungs. Common problems managed by the cardiologist are heart attacks (myocardial Infarctions, MI), angina (chest pain related to inadequate blood flow in to the heart), congestive heart failure, abnormal heart beat rhythms, atherosclerosis. Generally will not need to refer a patient to another physician for problems falling within the scope of his specialty.

Cardiac Electrophysiology

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

Board Certification in Internal Medicine: 3 years plus 3 years special training in Cardiovascular Medicine and special testing and training: 1 year: Total **7 years**

General Description:

A very narrow subspecialty of Cardiovascular Medicine involved in complicated procedures evaluating and treating abnormal heart rhythms. See Cardiovascular Disease.

Critical Care Medicine (Intensivist)

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

3 years of specialty training in Internal Medicine plus special testing: Total 3 years

General Description:

The **comprehensive** care and management of severely ill patients, primarily within the intensive or critical care unit of a hospital.

Diagnostic Laboratory Immunology

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

3 years of specialty training in Internal Medicine plus special testing: Total 3 years

General Description:

Expertise in laboratory procedures and testing for the diagnosis and treatment of diseases related the abnormal function of the immune system

Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism (Endocrinologists)

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

Board Certification in Internal Medicine: 3 years plus 2 years special training in Endocrinology, Diabetes, and Metabolism: Total 5 years

General Description:

The **comprehensive** diagnosis and treatment of disorders and illnesses of the internal glands and hormonal balance. Endocrinologists commonly treat disorders of the thyroid, adrenal glands, pituitary gland, diabetes, menstrual and sexual problems related to hormonal imbalance.

Gastroenterology (Gastroenterologist)

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

Board Certification in Internal Medicine: 3 years plus 2 years special training in Gastroenterology: Total 5 years

General Description:

The **comprehensive** medical management of disease of the intestinal tract (esophagus, stomach, small and large bowel, appendix, and gall bladder) and associated organs including the liver and pancreas. Common problems diagnosed and treated include abdomen pain, hepatitis, gall bladder disease, ulcers, diarrhea, polyps, cancer of the intestinal tract, nausea, vomiting, difficulty swallowing,

constipation, blood in stool. A Gastroenterologist will often diagnose or treat diseases using endoscopy (visual inspection of the intestinal tract using lighted telescopes.) If a surgical problem is diagnosed the Gastroenterologist is skilled at referring to the appropriate surgical specialist.

Geriatric Medicine

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

Board Certification in Internal Medicine: 3 years plus special testing in Geriatrics: Total **3 years**

General Description:

An Internal Medicine physician who has a broad based knowledge of illnesses of the elderly including prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation.

Hematology

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

Board Certification in Internal Medicine: 3 years plus 2 years special training in Hematology: Total **5 years**

General Description:

An Internal Medicine physician who has a broad based knowledge in the diseases of the blood, bone marrow, spleen and lymph nodes. Common problems managed by the Hematologist are anemia, excessive or easy bleeding, sickle cell disease, hemophilia, leukemia, lymphoma, and bone marrow problems.

Infectious Disease

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

Board Certification in Internal Medicine: 3 years plus 2 years special training in Infectious Disease: Total **5 years**

General Description:

The **comprehensive** diagnosis and medical treatment of infection of all types and in all organs. Infectious Disease Physicians have special expertise in the selective use of antibiotics. Common problems includes fevers from unknown causes, AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, severe and recurring infections, post operative infections, heart and brain infections.

Medical Oncology (Oncologist)

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

Board Certification in Internal Medicine: 3 years plus 2 years special training in Medical Oncology: Total **5 years**

General Description:

The medical detection, diagnosis and treatment of cancer. Skilled in the administration of chemotherapy for the treatment of cancer as well as the appropriate referral to other specialists for the treatment of some cancer (Surgeons or Radiation Therapy Physicians.)

Nephrology (Nephrologist)

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

Board Certification in Internal Medicine: 3 years plus 2 years special training in Nephrology: Total **5 years**

General Description:

The medical diagnosis and treatment of diseases of the kidneys. Common problems included are the management of kidney failure, high blood pressure, kidney infections, dialysis, kidney stone prevention, and the medical management of kidney transplants.

Pulmonary Disease

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

Board Certification in Internal Medicine: 3 years plus 2 years special training in Pulmonary Disease: Total **5 years**

General Description:

The **comprehensive** medical testing, diagnosis, and management of lung and airway diseases. Common problems treated include asthma, emphysema, bronchitis, lung cancer, sleep apnea, and the mechanical support of breathing. Testing of lung function as well as endoscopic (a lighted telescope inspection of the interior of the lung airways) evaluation are performed by Pulmonary Medicine Specialists.

Rheumatology (Rheumatologist)

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

Board Certification in Internal Medicine: 3 years plus 2 years special training in Rheumatology: Total **5 years**

General Description:

The **comprehensive** medical diagnosis and management of diseases involving the joints, muscles, bones, and tendons. Common problems managed are arthritis, back and muscle pain, and “collagen-vascular diseases.

Sports Medicine

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

Board Certification in Internal Medicine: 3 years plus special testing in Sports Medicine: Total **3 years**

General Description:

An Internal Medicine Physician who has expertise in the health maintenance and injury prevention of persons engaged in physical exertion (sports)

Neurological Surgery (Neurosurgeon)

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

General Internship 1 year plus 5 years special training in Neurological Surgery: Total **6 years**

General Description:

The **comprehensive** surgical and non-surgical management of disease of the nervous system. Common problems managed are brain tumors, brain trauma or injury, spinal cord trauma or injury, pinched nerves, and ruptured disks.

Neurology (Neurologist)

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

4 years special training in Neurology: Total **4 years**

General Description:

The **comprehensive** non-surgical diagnosis and treatment of disorders of the nervous system, including brain, spinal cord and nerves. Common problems treated include headaches including migraines, Parkinson's disease, strokes, paralysis, spinal cord injury, meningitis, seizure disorders, and Alzheimer's disease.

Recognized Subspecialties

Child Neurology

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

Board Certification in Neurology 4 years plus special testing in Child Neurology: Total **4 years**

General Description:

The **comprehensive** non-surgical diagnosis and treatment of disorders of the child or adolescent nervous system, including brain, spinal cord and nerves. Common problems treated include headaches including migraines, Parkinson's disease, strokes, paralysis, spinal cord injury, meningitis, seizure disorders, and Alzheimer's Disease.

Clinical Neurophysiology

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

Board Certification in Neurology 4 years plus 1 year special training in Clinical Neurophysiology: Total **5 years**

General Description:

A Neurologist with special training in electrophysiological testing and treatment.

Obstetrics and Gynecology (Obstetrician/ Gynecologist)

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

4 years special training in Obstetrics and Gynecology: Total 4 years

General Description:

The **comprehensive** surgical and non-surgical treatment of the female reproductive tract including pregnancy. Common disorders treated include menstrual problem, vaginal infections, abnormal bleeding, cancer of the cervix, uterus, and ovaries, sexually transmitted diseases, vaginal growths, pain or itching.

Recognized Subspecialties

Critical Care Medicine

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

4 years of specialty training in Obstetrics and Gynecology plus special testing: Total 4 years

General Description:

The **comprehensive** care and management of severely ill patients, primarily within the intensive or critical care unit of a hospital.

Gynecological Oncology

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

Board Certification in Obstetrics and Gynecology 4 years plus 1 year special training in Gynecological Oncology: Total 5 years

General Description:

The **comprehensive** surgical and non-surgical treatment of tumors or cancers of the female reproductive organs. This includes cancer or tumors of the cervix, ovaries, uterus, vagina, and external genital area

Maternal and Fetal Medicine

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

Board Certification in Obstetrics and Gynecology 4 years plus special testing in Maternal and Fetal Medicine: Total 4 years

General Description:

The management of complicated pregnancies

Reproductive Endocrinology

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

Board Certification in Obstetrics and Gynecology 4 years plus special testing in Reproductive Endocrinology: Total 4 years

General Description:

The Obstetrician and Gynecologist who specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of infertility (inability to have children) and abnormal hormonal function of the reproductive system.

Ophthalmology (Ophthalmologist)

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

General Internship 1 year plus 3 years special training Ophthalmology: Total 4 years

General Description:

The **comprehensive** surgical and non-surgical diagnosis and treatment of disorders of the eye and vision.

Orthopedic Surgery (Orthopedic Surgeon)

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

5 years special training in Orthopedic Surgery: Total 5 years

General Description:

The **comprehensive** diagnosis and treatment (surgical and non-surgical) of disorders of the muscles and bones, including the spine and extremities. Common disorders treated include back pain, broken bones, tumors or cancers of the bone or muscles, bony birth defects, severe arthritis, and ruptured disks.

Recognized Subspecialties

Hand Surgery

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

Board Certification in Orthopedic Surgery 5 years plus special testing in Hand Surgery: Total 5 years

General Description:

An Orthopedic Surgeon with special expertise in the **comprehensive** surgical and non-surgical treatment of arm and hand problems. Common problems treated include trauma with injuries to nerves, tendons, or muscles, bursitis, amputations, tendonitis, and prosthetic devices for hand or arm function.

Otolaryngology (Otolaryngologist)

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

General Internship 1 year and 3 years special training Otolaryngology: Total **4 years**

General Description:

Better known as Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) specialists, Otolaryngologists provide **comprehensive** surgical and non-surgical diagnosis and treatment of diseases of the upper air and food passages, the ears, and the neck. Common problems treated include hearing loss, ear infections, ringing in the ears, dizziness, allergic rhinitis (runny nose/sniffles), sinusitis, nasal obstruction, tonsils and adenoid problems, and tumors of the of the upper airway, food passages, and the neck.

Recognized Subspecialties

Otology/ Neurotology

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

Board Certification in Otolaryngology 4 years plus 1 year special training in Otology/ Neurotology: Total **5 years**.

General Description:

A Board Certified Otolaryngologist with special training in the **comprehensive** non-surgical and surgical treatment (including microsurgery) of the diseases of the ears and temporal bone including hearing and balance problems

Pediatric Otolaryngology

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

Board Certification in Otolaryngology 4 years plus special testing in Pediatric Otolaryngology: Total **4 years**.

General Description:

A Board Certified Otolaryngologist with special training in the **comprehensive** surgical and non-surgical treatment of the infant and childhood disease of the ears, upper airway and swallowing tubes, nose, sinuses, and mouth. These may be congenital birth defects or acquired illnesses and include disorders of speech, and hearing.

Pathology (Pathologist)

General Description

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training: 4 years special training in Pathology:
Total 4 years

General Description:

The diagnosis, exclusion, or monitoring of diseases through the laboratory analysis of tissue specimens, cells, and body fluid.

Recognized Subspecialties

Blood Banking/ Transfusion Medicine

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

Board Certification in Pathology 4 years plus special testing in Blood Banking/ Transfusion Medicine: Total **4 years**

General Description:

The Board Certified Pathologist with special expertise in all aspects of blood and blood product transfusions.

Chemical Pathology

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

Board Certification in Pathology 4 years plus special testing in Chemical Pathology: Total **4 years**

General Description:

The Board Certified Pathologist with special expertise in the application of biochemical detection, confirmation, or monitoring of disease.

Cytopathology

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

Board Certification in Pathology 4 years plus special testing in Cytopathology: Total **4 years**

General Description:

The Board Certified Pathologist with special expertise in the diagnosis of disease through the examination of cells obtained from body tissue.

Dermatopathology

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

Board Certification in Pathology 4 years plus special testing in Dermatopathology: Total **4 years**

General Description:

The Board Certified Pathologist with special expertise in the diagnosis and monitoring of the diseases of the skin.

Forensic Pathology

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

Board Certification in Pathology 4 years plus special testing in Forensic Pathology: Total **4 years**

General Description

The Board Certified Pathologist with special expertise in investigation and evaluation of the cause of death or illness, especially as it may pertain to law or crimes.

Hematology

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

Board Certification in Pathology 4 years plus special testing in Hematology: Total **4 years**

General Description:

The Board Certified Pathologist with special expertise in the laboratory diagnosis of disorders of the blood and blood producing organs.

Immunopathology

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

Board Certification in Pathology 4 years plus special testing in Immunopathology: Total **4 years**

General Description:

The Board Certified Pathologist with special expertise in evaluation of the causes, diagnoses, or prognoses of diseases utilizing immunological analysis of specimens, tissue, cells, or body fluids.

Medical Microbiology

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

Board Certification in Pathology 4 years plus special testing in Medical Microbiology: Total **4 years**

General Description:

The Board Certified Pathologist with special expertise in the isolation, identification, and testing of microbial organisms (bacteria, viruses, parasites, etc.) that cause disease.

Neuropathology

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

Board Certification in Pathology 4 years plus special testing in Neuropathology: Total **4 years**

General Description:

The Board Certified Pathologist with special expertise in the laboratory diagnosis of diseases of the nervous system and muscles.

Pediatric Pathology

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

Board Certification in Pathology 4 years plus special testing in Pediatric Pathology: Total **4 years**

General Description:

The Board Certified Pathologist with special expertise in the laboratory diagnosis of diseases that occur during fetal growth, infancy, and childhood.

Pediatrics (Pediatrician)

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

3 years special training in Pediatrics: Total **3 years**

General Description:

A “**Generalist**” with broad based training in caring for infants, children, and young adults. Can provide long term care in terms of the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of illness. He or she is skilled in the referral of patients with complicated or severe problems to appropriate specialists or subspecialist.

Recognized Subspecialties

Adolescent Medicine

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

Board Certification in Pediatrics, 3 years plus special testing in Adolescent Medicine: Total **3 years**

General Description:

The Board Certified Pediatrician with special expertise in the diagnosis treatment of problems unique to the adolescent including

Diagnostic Laboratory Immunology

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

Board Certification in Pediatrics, 3 years plus special testing in Diagnostic Laboratory Immunology: Total **3 years**

General Description:

The Board Certified Pediatrician with special expertise in the complex laboratory testing or procedures used to diagnose or treat allergic reactions or diseases related abnormal immunologic responses.

Medical Toxicology (Toxicologist)

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

Board Certification in Pediatrics, 3 years plus special testing in Medical Toxicology: Total **3 years**

General Description:

The Board Certified Pediatrician with special expertise in the diagnosis and management of poisoning, drug over doses, and hazardous materials exposure

Pediatric Cardiology (Cardiologist)

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

Board Certification in Pediatrics, 3 years plus special testing in Pediatric Cardiology: Total **3 years**

General Description:

The Board Certified Pediatrician with special expertise in the **comprehensive** diagnosis and treatment of childhood or infant diseases of the heart, blood vessels, and lungs. Common problems managed by the Pediatric Cardiologist congestive heart failure, abnormal heart beat rhythms, heart murmurs, and congenital heart defects. Generally will not need to refer a patient to another physician for problems falling within the scope of his specialty.

Pediatric Critical Care Medicine (Intensivist)

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

Board Certification in Pediatrics, 3 years plus special testing in Pediatric Critical Care Medicine: Total **3 years**

General Description:

The Board Certified Pediatrician with special expertise in the **comprehensive** care and management of severely ill infants and children, primarily within the intensive or critical care unit of a hospital.

Pediatric Emergency Medicine

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

Board Certification in Pediatrics, 3 years plus special testing in Pediatric Emergency Medicine: Total **3 years**

General Description:

The Board Certified Pediatrician with special expertise in the treatment of childhood emergencies primarily in the emergency room setting. See Emergency Medicine.

Pediatric Endocrinology (Endocrinologist)

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

Board Certification in Pediatrics, 3 years plus special testing in Pediatric Endocrinology: Total **3 years**

General Description:

The Board Certified Pediatrician with special expertise in the **comprehensive** diagnosis and treatment of disorders and illnesses of the internal glands and hormonal balance. Endocrinologists commonly

treat disorders of the thyroid, adrenal glands, pituitary gland, diabetes, menstrual and sexual problems related to hormonal imbalance.

Pediatric Gastroenterology (Gastroenterologist)

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

Board Certification in Pediatrics, 3 years plus special testing in Pediatric Gastroenterology: Total **3 years**

General Description:

The Board Certified Pediatrician with special expertise in the **comprehensive** medical management of disease of the intestinal tract (esophagus, stomach, small and large bowel, appendix, and gall bladder) and associated organs including the liver and pancreas. Common problems diagnosed and treated include abdomen pain, hepatitis, gall bladder disease, ulcers, diarrhea, polyps, cancer of the intestinal tract, nausea, vomiting, difficulty swallowing, constipation, blood in stool. A Gastroenterologist will often diagnose or treat diseases using endoscopy (visual inspection of the intestinal tract using lighted telescopes.) If a surgical problem is diagnosed the Gastroenterologist is skilled at referring to the appropriate surgical specialist.

Pediatric Hematology- Oncology (Hematologist- Oncologists)

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

Board Certification in Pediatrics, 3 years plus special testing in Pediatric Hematology- Oncology: Total **3 years**

General Description:

The Board Certified Pediatrician with special expertise in the broad based knowledge in the diseases of the blood, bone marrow, spleen lymph nodes, and childhood cancers. Common problems managed by the Hematologist are anemia, excessive or easy bleeding, sickle cell disease, hemophilia, leukemia, lymphoma, and bone marrow problems.

Pediatric Infectious Disease

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

Board Certification in Pediatrics, 3 years plus special testing in Pediatric Infectious Disease: Total **3 years**

General Description:

The Board Certified Pediatrician with special expertise in the **comprehensive** diagnosis and medical treatment of infection of all types and in all organs. Pediatric Infectious Disease Physicians have special expertise in the selective use of antibiotics. Common problems includes fevers from unknown causes, AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, severe and recurring infections, post operative infections, heart and brain infections.

Pediatric Nephrology (Nephrologist)

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

Board Certification in Pediatrics, 3 years plus special testing in Pediatric Nephrology: Total **3 years**

General Description:

The Board Certified Pediatrician with special expertise in the medical diagnosis and treatment of diseases of the kidneys. Common problems included are the management of kidney failure, high blood pressure, kidney infections, dialysis, kidney stone prevention, and the medical management of kidney transplants.

Pediatric Pulmonology (Pulmonologist)

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

Board Certification in Pediatrics, 3 years plus special testing in Pediatric Pulmonology: Total **3 years**

General Description:

The Board Certified Pediatrician with special expertise in the **comprehensive** medical testing, diagnosis, and management of lung and airway diseases. Common problems treated include asthma, emphysema, bronchitis, lung cancer, sleep apnea, and the mechanical support of breathing. Testing of lung function as well as endoscopic (a lighted telescope inspection of the interior of the lung airways) evaluation are performed by Pediatric Pulmonologists.

Pediatric Rheumatology (Rheumatologist)

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

Board Certification in Pediatrics, 3 years plus special testing in Pediatric Rheumatology: Total **3 years**

General Description:

The Board Certified Pediatrician with special expertise in the **comprehensive** medical diagnosis and management of diseases involving the joints, muscles, bones, and tendons. Common problems managed are arthritis, back and muscle pain, and “collagen-vascular” diseases.

Pediatric Sports and Fitness Medicine

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

Board Certification in Pediatrics, 3 years plus special testing in Pediatric Sports and Fitness Medicine: Total **3 years**

General Description:

The Board Certified Pediatrician with special expertise in the health maintenance and injury prevention of children engaged in physical exertion (sports)

Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

General internship plus 3 years special training in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation: Total **4 years**

General Description:

The **comprehensive** evaluation and management of impairments and disabilities of the neurological, musculoskeletal, and cardiovascular systems. Problems commonly managed are stroke victims, spinal cord injuries, neurological deficits secondary to diseases of the nervous system.

Plastic Surgery (Plastic Surgeon)**Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:**

3 years training in General Surgery plus 2 years special training in Plastic Surgery: Total **5 years**

General Description:

The **comprehensive** diagnosis and surgical repair or reconstruction of defects of form and/ or function of the skin and its underlying musculoskeletal system, with emphasis on the face, mouth, upper and lower limbs, breasts, and genital area. Common cosmetic treatments include face lift, “nose jobs”, face reconstruction; breast lifts, enlargements, or reductions; “tummy tuck”, liposuction, chemical peel, and tattoo and scar revisions. Common reconstructive treatments include breast reconstruction after cancer surgery; removal of skin moles, lesions or tumors, cleft lip repairs pressure sore management, and complex wound management.

Recognized Subspecialties

Hand Surgery**Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:**

Board Certification in Plastic Surgery 5 years plus special testing in Hand Surgery: Total **5 years**

General Description:

A Plastic Surgeon with special expertise in the **comprehensive** surgical and non-surgical treatment of arm and hand problems. Common problems treated include trauma with injuries to nerves, tendons, or muscles, bursitis, amputations, tendonitis, and prosthetic devices for hand or arm function.

Psychiatry (Psychiatrist)**Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:**

4 years special training in Psychiatry: Total **4 years**

General Description:

The diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of mental, emotional, and behavioral disorders. Common problems treated include depression, psychosis, stress disorders, abnormal family relationships, substance abuse, and eating disorders.

Recognized Subspecialties

Addiction Psychiatry

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

Board Certification in Psychiatry 4 years plus 1 year special training in Addiction Psychiatry: Total 5 years

General Description:

A Board Certified Psychiatrist with special expertise in the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of alcohol, drug, or substance abuse.

Child and Adolescent Psychiatry

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

Board Certification in Psychiatry 4 years plus 2 years special training in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry: Total 6 years

General Description:

A Board Certified Psychiatrist with special expertise in the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of childhood and adolescent psychiatric disorders.

Forensic Psychiatry

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

Board Certification in Psychiatry 4 years plus 1 year special testing in Forensic Psychiatry: Total 4 years

General Description:

The Board Certified Psychiatrist with special expertise in the application of psychiatric principles evaluations, and observation as they may apply to law or criminal behavior.

Geriatric Psychiatry

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

Board Certification in Psychiatry 4 years plus 1 year special training in Geriatric Psychiatry: Total 5 years

General Description:

The Board certified psychiatrist that has special expertise in the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of mental, behavioral, and emotional disorders of the elderly.

Radiology (Radiologist)

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

4 years special training in Radiology: Total 4 years

General Description:

The use of radiological techniques such as x-rays and radioactive material to diagnose and manage disease.

Recognized Subspecialties

Diagnostic Radiology

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

Board Certification in Diagnostic Radiology: Total **4 years**

General Description:

Same as radiology above with emphasis on diagnosis (as opposed to treatment) by radiological means.

Neuroradiology

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

Board Certification in Radiology 4 years plus special testing in Neuroradiology: Total **4 years**

General Description:

A Board Certified Radiologist with special expertise in the techniques of radiological diagnosis and treatment of the disorders of the nervous system.

Nuclear Radiology

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

Board Certification in Radiology 4 years plus special testing in Nuclear Radiology: Total **4 years**

General Description:

A Board Certified Radiologist with special expertise in the techniques use of radioactive material in the diagnosis and treatment of disease.

Pediatric Radiology

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

Board Certification in Radiology 4 years plus special testing in Pediatric Radiology: Total **4 years**

General Description:

A Board Certified Radiologist with special expertise in the techniques of diagnosis and radiological treatment of the disorders of childhood.

Vascular and Interventional Radiology

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

Board Certification in Radiology 4 years plus special testing in Vascular and Interventional Radiology: Total 4 years

General Description:

A board certified Radiologist with special expertise in the invasive (surgical) techniques for the radiological diagnosis and treatment of diseases.

Radiation Oncology (Radiotherapist)

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

4 years special training in Radiation Oncology: Total 4 years

General Description:

The **comprehensive** use of radiation to treat cancer and other similar medical diseases.

Thoracic Surgery (Thoracic Surgeon)

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

Board Certification in General Surgery: 5 years plus 2 years special training in Thoracic Surgery: Total 7 years

General Description:

The comprehensive diagnosis and surgical treatment of diseases of the chest, heart, lungs, esophagus and blood vessels. Common treatments include heart bypass surgery, lung cancer surgery, heart valve surgery, and heart transplants.

Urology (Urologist)

Board Certification Requirements/ Years Additional Training:

2 years general surgical and medical training plus 3-4 years special training in Urology: Total 5-6 years

General Description:

The **comprehensive** diagnosis and treatment (both surgical and non-surgical) of disorders involving the kidneys, bladder, prostate, urethra, testes, penis, scrotum, and vaginal area. Common problems treated include kidney and bladder infections; cancer of the kidney, bladder, prostate, or testicles; kidney stones, blood in the urine, impotence, leakage of urine, sexually transmitted diseases, blockage of the kidneys or bladder, prostate enlargement, difficulty urinating, kidney transplants, vasectomy, and inability to conceive children.