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What a general practitioner does

Also found in: Dictionary, Thesaurus, Legal, Financial, Acronyms, Encyclopedia, Wikipedia. n. Abbr. GP A physician whose practice is not oriented to a specific medical specialty but instead covers a variety of medical problems in patients of all ages. Also called family doctor.The American Heritage® Medical Dictionary Copyright © 2007, 2004 by Houghton Mifflin Company. Published by Houghton Mifflin Company. All rights reserved. Medscape-UKA fully registered medical practitioner in the UK who provides general medical services to a particular group of patients or "list", either in partnership with other GPs, as a salaried GP in a group or, less commonly, as a single practitioner. GPs may also provide inpatient care in community hospitals. A GP will refer patients "forward" to a consultant (hospital specialist) when the patients' needs cannot be addressed locally. GPs in the UK are not NHS employees, but rather contract independently with the NHS.Medspeak-USA physician who practices "general medicine", often an older physician who did not specialise in any field of medicine after graduation from medical school. Most so-defined GPs have since retired from practice.Segen's Medical Dictionary. © 2012 Farlex, Inc. All rights reserved. A physician who practices 'general medicine', often an older physician who did not specialize in any field of medicine after graduation from medical school. Cf Family practitioner, Generalist. McGraw-Hill Concise Dictionary of Modern Medicine. © 2002 by The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc. (fam'i-lē prak'tis-ŭ-zh-ŭn) The trained health care professional who attends most of the needs of her patients through diagnosis to pharmacotherapy. Previously, the first caregiver seen by patients. Medical Dictionary for the Health Professions and Nursing © Farlex 2012 A doctor who does not specialize in any particular branch of medicine but who treats a wide variety of relatively minor medical conditions and is able to discern those conditions requiring specialist attention.Collins Dictionary of Medicine © Robert M. Youngson 2004, 2005Q. What is the process a general physician would use to diagnose adult ADHD? I'm have an appointment with my primary care physician to be screened for adult ADHD. Does anyone know what he will do in order to test and diagnose me?A. Actually I was just diagnosed with ADHD. I'm 57. My doctor sent me to a phyciatrist, and he asked me several questions. Gave me a scrip and want to see me back in a month. I answered 26 questions, and he rated on my answers.More discussions about general practitionerThis content is provided by iMedix and is subject to iMedix Terms. The Questions and Answers are not endorsed or recommended and are made available by patients, not doctors. Want to thank TFD for its existence? Tell a friend about us, add a link to this page, or visit the webmaster's page for free fun content. Link to this page: general practitioner A Pennsylvania district court ruled in March that a patient may hold a general practitioner responsible for referring a patient to an incompetent specialist or for not recognizing the specialist's negligent treatment during follow-up care.Overall response rates from general practitioners and consultants were 56% (459/824) and 79% (163/207) respectively. General practitioner fundholders and general practitioners from training practices were slightly more likely to respond than other general practitioners [152 of 247 fundholders responded (61.5%) compared with 304 of 577 non-fundholders (52.7%) and 163 of 248 from training practices (65.7%) compared with 293 of 575 (50.9%) from other practices (P [is less than] 0.05 in both cases)].A focus of this program is providing outreach services to patients who are not able to travel for medical services and/or have not been able to establish a relationship with a knowledgeable community-based general practitioner. The outreach services, designed to prevent costly medical complications and improve quality of life for patients, will include healthcare professionals visiting patients in their homes to provide preventive and primary care. GPs are trained to deal holistically (taking into consideration the whole body and environment when offering treatment) with the range of problems a person might have. GPs are skilled in diagnosis especially at an early stage of a condition. They also know when and where to refer you if you require further investigations or treatment. A GP can therefore recognise, advise, treat or refer patients with any medical or emotional condition. A patient could arrive with shingles or schizophrenia, bowel problems or backache, diabetes or depression and expect to be helped by a highly competent, knowledgeable and skilled professional. He or she will have had a minimum of ten years medical training. GPs provide a continuous service throughout a person's life so will be able to advise on the needs of a baby with fever, an old person with memory loss as well as medical and psychological problems that occur at any age. GPs are trained to listen and observe and able to pick up symptoms that you may have missed, then work with you to improve matters. "Vocationally registered" doctors are those who hold a fellowship or postgraduate qualification. They are registered with the Medical Council of New Zealand as specialists. General Physicians are highly trained specialists who provide a range of non-surgical health care to adult patients. They care for difficult, serious or unusual medical problems and continue to see the patient until these problems have resolved or stabilised. Much of their work takes place with hospitalised patients and most general physicians also see patients in their consulting rooms. Their broad range of expertise differentiates General Physicians from other specialists who limit their medical practice to problems involving only one body system or to a special area of medical knowledge. Roles of a General Physician Consultant General physicians are consultants who care for patients with special or difficult problems. General physicians only see patients who are referred to them by other doctors, usually by the patient's own general practitioner. Global Approach: Whether the referral identifies one health problem or many, the general physician's assessment is always comprehensive. This global approach enables problems to be detected and diagnostic possibilities to be considered which might otherwise be missed. Complex Care: General physicians are especially trained to care for patients with complex illnesses, in which the diagnosis may be difficult. The general physician's broad training provides expertise in diagnosis and treatment of problems affecting different body systems in a patient. They are also trained to deal with social and psychological impact of disease. Procedures: General physicians are trained to carry out a variety of medical procedures for the diagnosis and management of patients with severe and complex illnesses. Diagnosis: General physicians have special training in the usefulness, limitations and costs of most diagnostic tests. General physicians use diagnostic tests logically, safely and effectively to investigate difficult diagnostic problems. Treatment: General physicians are trained in the critical analysis of research reports and drug industry claims about new treatments. They are knowledgeable about complex interactions of medications given simultaneously to treat multiple illnesses in a patient. The general physician has special expertise in making treatment decisions to help patients with complex and serious illnesses. Pre- and Post-operative assessment: General physicians are frequently asked to review patients before surgery. They advise surgeons of a patient's risk status and can recommend appropriate management to minimise the risk of the operation. They can also assist in postoperative care and ongoing medical problems or complications. What makes a General Physician special? The unique combination of knowledge, training and skills distinguishes general physicians from other medical specialists and general practitioners. Through a rigorous and comprehensive training program, general physicians are: broadly educated to deal with the entire range of the patient's medical problems thorough, logical and scientific in their approach to providing expert diagnosis able to assess and choose drugs and other medical therapies wisely to prevent and treat disease able to care for patients as whole people, not just body systems, and highly skilled in clinical decision making and cost effective use of dwindling health care resources People sometimes use "general practitioner," "primary care physician," and "internist" interchangeably. It's important to know the differences between doctors when you're looking for a new primary care physician, however. Both general practitioners and internists are primary care physicians. Both offer medical care for adults. GPs and internists are not the same, however. So what's the difference between a general practitioner and an internist? What's an Internal Medicine doctor or internist? An internist is a doctor who specializes in internal medicine. Internal medicine focuses on the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of injuries and diseases. Internal Medicine doctors provide comprehensive care for adults with a broad knowledge of diseases, are experts in diagnosis, and promote wellness and preventive care. After medical school, Internal medicine doctors complete a three-year residency; this is a focused approach to adult care without further training in pediatric or obstetric care. They are specially trained to diagnose complex diseases and manage chronic illnesses that may have several different illnesses appear at the same time. Some phrases you may hear to describe an Internist are "Doctors for Adults" or "The doctors' doctor." Internists are equipped to provide health care for adults starting at age 18 and into the golden years. They provide health promotion and preventive care including recommended screenings and coordinating care with medical specialists. They treat simple and complex illnesses. Internists may choose a subspecialty of internal medicine such as cardiology, pulmonology, rheumatology, or gastroenterology. An internist that specializes in cardiology, for example, is a cardiologist. General internists are trained to provide primary care for adults and are considered primary care physicians. This is where people may get confused about internists. People sometimes use "primary care physician" and "general practitioner" interchangeably. These two terms are not synonymous, however. A primary care physician is the doctor you see for regular check-ups. Your primary care physician may be an internist, a family practitioner, or another type of doctor. Your child's primary care physician may be a pediatrician. What's a general practitioner? Like internists, general practitioners are considered primary care physicians. One of the biggest distinctions between an internist and a general practitioner is that while internists typically only treat adults, general practitioners are trained to provide care for patients of all ages. A general practitioner may treat adults, adolescents, and also children. General practice physicians may choose to practice family medicine, but family medicine is a medical specialty. Choosing the right doctor If you're looking for a new primary care physician, internists and general practitioners may both be good options. Of course, your own specific needs may determine which type of doctor is right for you. Fayetteville Diagnostic Clinic, A MANA Clinic, is an internal medicine based clinic with some of the best board certified, internal medicine doctors in Northwest Arkansas! At this multispecialty clinic, patients can access general internal medicine doctors and specialty medicine doctors under one roof. Find the right internal medicine doctor for you! We all rely on them. They are one of the most trusted professionals. They can save your life. No, we're not talking superheroes... GPs or 'General Practitioners' are one of the top profession choices, and it's not hard to see why as they play a vital role in the medical sector. Duties and responsibilities of General Practitioners (GP) GPs play a hugely important role within their community. You're the first port of call for anyone who falls ill, feels depressed or wakes up with worse back pain now than when they went to sleep. A sure fire way of impressing at parties, GPs are fully-trained medical doctors who practice in the primary care sector (in the scary world beyond hospitals). General Practitioner (GP) working hours The core work of a GP is all about listening, so if you like to talk about yourself and not much else, you might want to consider a different career. Daily tasks can include: Holding consultations in the surgery Listening to patients and diagnosing and treating their symptoms Deciding on the right course of action for patients (could include hospital referral for specialised treatment) Administrative and management duties Because you'll be such a busy bee, many practices now employ full-time managers to take the load off the doctors, but a GP is still responsible for: Keeping detailed records of all patients and the treatments they receive Hiring and managing staff Making major spending decisions on premises and equipment Liaising with other medical and social care professionals within their own surgery and beyond With further training GPs can sharpen their specialist knowledge in areas such as diabetes or heart disease, and hold specialist consultations within their practice, just like a hospital consultant. There are also openings like prison doctors, police surgeons, army doctors and GP trainers, not to mention the high standing in which UK-trained GPs are held internationally. How much does a General Practitioner (GP) make? If you're going into this job just for that salary, you may need to slow down and have a re-think as the big figures will only come after years of work. Salaried GPs working directly for a primary care trust start at £57,000, rising to £81,000 with experience, but when you first start as a junior hospital doctor you'll earn between £22,000 and £29,000 for a 40-hour week. To join the elite group of high-earning GPs, you have to become a Practice Partner. In simple terms, become a self-employed independent contractor to the NHS. If you choose this, you'll be responsible for providing adequate premises from which to practice and employing your own staff. Any profit will depend on the services you provide and the way you run the practice: certainly there have been plenty of cases of such GPs earning well over £250,000 per year, and the latest set of reforms is expected to push GP earnings potentially even higher. To see the average General Practitioner (GP) salary in the UK, use the TotalJobs Salary Checker. Reasons for becoming a General Practitioner (GP) Despite the huge changes in the structure and nature the of work, being a GP is still a highly respected job. It richly rewards all those long, hard and expensive years of training you have to endure to get to the enviable position. Once fully-qualified you could be in demand from more than just needy patients. A whole world becomes available as you could work as an educator, academic researcher, advising police and lawyers in criminal cases, writing for publications, broadcasting, or working for government, professional associations and NHS committees. Hardest part of being a General Practitioner (GP) Everyone has had a day when they think death is knocking at the door when actually it's just a cold. Well being a GP you'll come across people like this on a daily basis, alongside time-wasters who just have a small cut on their leg and are insisting you call an ambulance. Best of luck with them. GPs are also often involved in research and medical education, so you'll have to keep up to date with massive amounts of information from drug companies and medical journals. The study will never end in this job. What qualifications do you need to be a General Practitioner (GP)? No time for slacking if you want to be a GP, there's a lot of training to be done. Competition for places on both undergraduate and postgraduate medical courses is intense, so you'll need excellent A-level grades before you've even begun further education. Then you've got to go to a university medical school and complete a degree in medicine, which typically takes four to five years, although some colleges now offer accelerated degree courses for applicants with relevant science degrees. Once you have your shiny medical degree, you'll need to do at least another 5 years of specialist postgraduate study. This includes a 2 year foundation period in which you'll work in various junior hospital doctor roles. By this point you'll need to decide what sort of a doctor you wish to become as the next three years training as a specialty registrar, working in hospitals in various specialist areas for 18 months. Then, if you've chosen the GP route, you'll work the final 18 months in primary care. After successful completion of each of these stages, you'll still need to pass a final exam to become a Member of the Royal College of General Practitioners - only then are you a fully-fledged GP. Phew! Need additional qualifications? Find a course on our Courses site Skills needed to be a General Practitioner (GP) The NHS has changed dramatically so these days GPs need business sense as well as medical expertise, a reason why the majority are now self-employed, working with groups of other GP partners in practices or commissioning services for their patients through the local primary care trust. Under the latest set of NHS reforms GPs will have even more power and influence so will need more management skills as they become the primary decision makers in localised NHS spending. Search for General Practitioner (GP) jobs on TotalJobs View the General Practitioner jobs currently available on TotalJobs, or sign-up for email job alerts.

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