

Hospital Medicine Snapshot

What is a hospitalist?

A physician, most commonly board certified in internal medicine, whose primary professional focus is the general medical care of hospitalized patients. Patients are generally assigned to a hospitalist when admitted to a hospital.

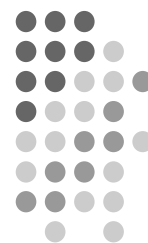
Facts & Figures

- **20,000** = # of practicing hospitalists nationwide
- **1996** = year “hospitalist” term was coined
- **1997** = year SHM was founded
- **85%** = % of hospitalists that are internists
- **37** = median age of a hospitalist
- **72%** = % of hospitalists that are U.S. Medical School Graduates
- **8.3** = average # of physicians in hospital medicine program
- **21%** = total hospitals <100 beds with hospitalists
- **87%** = total hospitals >500 beds with hospitalists
- **30,000** = # of practicing hospitalists by the year 2010 (as predicted by Society of Hospital Medicine)

Hospital medicine is the fastest growing medical specialty in modern medicine, surpassing 20,000 hospitalists in only 11 years.

More than 2600 hospitals nationwide utilize hospitalists in an effort to:

- **Create seamless continuity** for patients from inpatient to outpatient settings;
- **Improve efficiency** or patient throughput, by reducing hospital wait times and delays;
- **Enhance quality** in measurable ways, such as reduction of readmissions, errors and length of stay;
- **Improve referring physician satisfaction** by allowing them to focus on outpatient care;
- **Retain & recruit medical staff physicians** who prefer working with hospitalists to coordinate care of their patients;
- **Educate clinicians**, such as medical students, Residents, RNs; and
- **Improve patient experience** by creating coordinated care teams (nurses, pharmacists, physicians, case managers, others all working together on site in the hospital to coordinate care for the benefit of the patient).



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For more information about hospital medicine:

Society of Hospital Medicine

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