



## What is a general internist?

Internal medicine physicians are specialists who apply scientific knowledge and clinical expertise to the diagnosis, treatment, and compassionate care of adults across the spectrum of health to complex illness.

1. The general internist is the “quarterback” of care, coordinating a patient’s care among specialists while building life-long relationships with patients.
2. Internists are leading the charge into the future of health care by innovating new health care delivery systems that help serve our patients better.
3. Internists are the primary care doctors you turn to throughout the life-cycle, when you’re young and healthy, when you confront health difficulties, and the trusted advisor you turn to after receiving advice from specialists.

## What kind of training is required to become a general internist?

After completing medical school, general internists complete a 3-year internal medicine residency. Medical students interested in outpatient general medicine/primary care may consider applying to internal medicine residency programs that offer primary care/GIM tracks which provide enhanced training in outpatient general medicine. Upon completion of residency training, general internists can begin to practice in a variety of settings depending on their career interests. For those general internists interested in extra training in medical education or research, GIM fellowships are available and are 1-3 years long depending on the program.

## What types of General Internal Medicine (GIM) careers exist?

GIM has various career opportunities that allow practitioners to shape their desired career. General internists play significant roles in clinical care, research, health policy, public health, medical education, and leadership.

## Where do general internists practice?

Everywhere! All types of settings: Outpatient, inpatient, home-based care, academics, private practice, international health and more!

## Where can I learn more about the field of GIM?

[ProudtobeGIM.org](http://ProudtobeGIM.org) has links to informative podcasts, videos, papers, and other resources pertaining to general internal medicine.