

A look at physician compensation

Median compensation for general internists rose almost 3% in 2003 over the previous year, according to new survey data released by the Medical Group Management Association (MGMA).

However, median gross charges in internal medicine rose more than 4.4% over the same period, with productivity increases outstripping compensation gains.

Here are 2003 MGMA median compensation level and encounter data:

Specialty	Median compensation
Internal medicine, general	\$159,987
Internal medicine, hospitalist	165,179
Cardiology, noninvasive	349,416
Critical care	215,257
Gastroenterology	351,614
Hematology/oncology	315,969
Nephrology	237,659
Pulmonary medicine	229,173
Rheumatology	198,991
General internal medicine, by geographic region	Median compensation
Eastern United States	\$155,604
Midwest	156,010
Southern	168,215
Western	160,110
Part-time physician compensation, .4-.6 FTE	Median compensation
Internal medicine, general	\$94,311
Internal medicine, hospitalist	93,958
Physician ambulatory encounters	Median
Internal medicine, general	3,651
Internal medicine, hospitalist	1,698
Physician hospital encounters	Median
Internal medicine, general	626
Internal medicine, hospitalist	2,002

Source: "Physician Compensation and Production Survey: 2004 Report Based on 2003 Data," Medical Group Management Association, 2004.