

# What do these letters after your doctor's name mean?



## **What do the letters FACP® after your doctor's name mean?**

When you see the letters FACP after your physician's name they mean that he or she is a Fellow of the American College of Physicians (ACP).

## **What is ACP?**

The American College of Physicians is the largest society of internists in the world.

## **What is an internist?**

An internist is a specialist who provides non-surgical medical care to adults and adolescents.

## **What is an ACP Fellow?**

Fellows in ACP are a special group of doctors who are dedicated to continuing education in medical practice, teaching, or research. Fellowship is an honorary designation given to recognize ongoing individual service and contributions to the practice of medicine.

**Fellowship in ACP is a mark of distinction. It says that your doctor has made special efforts to be a better doctor. Ultimately, it says your doctor cares about delivering good health care.**

## **What does Fellowship tell you about YOUR DOCTOR? Your doctor has:**

- Been certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine or another board acceptable to ACP. Certification requires having satisfactorily completed a minimum of 3 years of approved postgraduate training in internal medicine and passage of a rigorous 2-day examination. (This certification is sometimes waived because of other outstanding qualifications.)
- Been recognized by other internists for excellence and skill in medical practice, teaching, or research.
- Demonstrated continuing scholarship and professional accomplishments.

## **How does a doctor become a Fellow in ACP?**

To be elected a Fellow, doctors must show that they are always growing and learning. They may show this through activities such as teaching, hospital appointments, public service, continuing medical education, publishing scientific articles, and advanced training.

They must also be recommended by other ACP Fellows who must attest to their character, ethics, and excellence in professional medical activities.

## **DID YOU KNOW...**

*Internists are unique in their focus on adult medicine:*

At least three of their seven or more years of medical school and postgraduate training are dedicated to learning how to prevent, diagnose, and treat diseases primarily affecting adults.

*Internists so often serve as medical consultants to physicians in other specialties:*

They've earned the nickname, "the doctor's doctor."

*Some internists choose to focus their practice on one area of internal medicine and take additional training to "subspecialize:"*

Cardiologists, for example, are doctors of internal medicine who subspecialize in diseases of the heart.

The American College of Physicians, headquartered in Philadelphia, represents approximately 126,000 doctors of internal medicine and medical students. Internists provide the majority of health care to adults in America.

## **American College of Physicians**

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