

How we work with your primary care physician

In most cases, you will still need an internist for non-allergy related medical care, although some allergists / immunologists maintain a general internal medicine (or pediatric) practice as well as their subspecialty.

If you have been referred by your primary care physician to an allergist/immunologist, in most cases you will go back to that physician for follow-up care. If you require continuing care for allergy-related conditions, your primary care physician and your allergist (immunologist), working together, will recommend which physician you should see.



Other subspecialties of internal medicine

Our focus on allergy / immunology is similar to the focus of other internal medicine subspecialties concerned with specific organs or conditions and diseases. Other subspecialties include gastroenterology (digestive tract), cardiology (heart), pulmonology (lungs), nephrology (kidneys), rheumatology (arthritis), hematology (blood), hepatology (liver), oncology (cancer), infectious diseases, endocrinology (diabetes and other glandular disorders), sports medicine, geriatrics, and adolescent medicine.

Clearing up some confusion

We doctors of internal medicine are also known as “internists.”

This should not be confused with “interns,” who are doctors in their first year of training after medical school.

Nor are we the same as “general practitioners” (GPs), or “family physicians” (FPs), whose practices may include surgery, obstetrics and pediatrics, and whose training is not solely concentrated on adults.

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ALLERGY & IMMUNOLOGY
INTERNAL MEDICINE
DOCTORS FOR ADULTS™

Your Internist is an Allergist/ Immunologist



We specialize in the immune system

Allergy/Immunology is the subspecialty of internal medicine concerned with the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of problems with the immune system.

We allergists / immunologists must first complete seven or more years of medical school and postgraduate training and attain Board Certification in Internal Medicine.* Then, for an additional two years, we study conditions specific to the immune system.



What we do

We focus on treatment and research involving:

- Respiratory tract diseases (allergic rhinitis, sinusitis, asthma)
- Skin disorders (eczema, contact dermatitis, hives)
- Gastrointestinal disorders from immune responses to foods
- Adverse reactions to drugs and diagnostic testing materials
- Diseases associated with autoimmune responses, including arthritis
- Symptoms of disorders caused by immunodeficiency
- Stem cell, bone marrow and organ transplantation
- Immunogenetics

Because not all of us perform all of the above, your internist will refer you to the appropriate allergist/immunologist.

When you need an allergist / immunologist

Not everyone who suffers from allergies needs a specialist. Many allergic problems are diagnosed and handled well by general internists (or pediatricians). Our skills are called on when special knowledge in diagnosis and treatment is required.



*This specialty can also be achieved following training in pediatrics.