

# How we work with your primary care physician

In many cases, patients with cardiovascular disease are followed jointly by a general internist and a cardiologist. This joint care works best for all concerned. The cardiologist can add new therapies and feel confident of the followup from a fellow internist.



# Other subspecialties of internal medicine

Our focus on the heart, blood vessels and circulation is similar to the focus of other internal medicine subspecialties concerned with specific organs, conditions, diseases, or age groups. Other subspecialties include gastroenterology (digestive tract), pulmonology (lungs), nephrology (kidneys), rheumatology (arthritis), hematology (blood), hepatology (liver), oncology (cancer), endocrinology (diabetes and other glandular disorders), infectious diseases, allergy and immunology, 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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INTERNAL MEDICINE  
DOCTORS FOR ADULTS™

# Your Internist is a Cardiologist



# We specialize in the heart

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Cardiology is the subspecialty of internal medicine concerned with the functioning of the heart, blood vessels and circulation of blood throughout the body and may encompass evaluation of the lungs.

We cardiologists must first complete seven or more years of medical school and postgraduate training and attain Board Certification in Internal Medicine. Then, for an additional three to five years, we study conditions specific to the heart, blood vessels and blood circulation.



# We're experts in adults

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As internists and cardiologists we focus on adults. Our role is to prevent, diagnose and treat conditions of the heart, blood vessels and circulation system in adult patients. But as broadly trained internists, we may also perform a general physical check-up. If a condition is found that falls within cardiology, we will handle the treatment. If it requires the services of another physician, we will refer you appropriately. As a rule, blood tests, urinalyses, X-ray tests and an ECG test will be conducted on most patients undergoing a complete examination in a cardiologist's office.

# When you need a cardiologist

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Frequently, a cardiologist is called in cases of chest pain or discomfort in which the diagnosis is unclear or where specialized medical care is needed. Not everyone who suffers from some difficulty in breathing or pain in the chest needs a cardiologist. Many patients may be handled quite effectively by an internist. A cardiologist's skills are most necessary in comprehensive diagnosis and treatment of the heart and circulatory system.

