

How we work with your primary care physician

In most cases, you will still need an internist or other primary care physician for non-endocrinology related medical care, although some endocrinologists maintain a general internal medicine practice as well as their subspecialty.

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

If you have questions about which physician to see, be sure to ask.



Other subspecialties of internal medicine

Our focus on endocrine disease 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, 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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E N D O C R I N O L O G Y
INTERNAL MEDICINE
DOCTORS FOR ADULTS™

Your Internist is an Endocrinologist





We specialize in hormones

Endocrinology is the subspecialty of internal medicine dealing with the endocrine glands and hormones and their roles in health and diseases.

We endocrinologists 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 to three years, we study conditions specific to the endocrine system — tissues and major endocrine glands, including the pituitary, pineal, thyroid, parathyroids, thymus, adrenals, pancreas, ovaries, and testes.

Many other organs also secrete hormones — the kidney, heart, stomach, hypothalamus, brain, as well as the placenta.

These glands and tissues secrete hormones — bodily chemicals that profoundly affect every known physiological function.

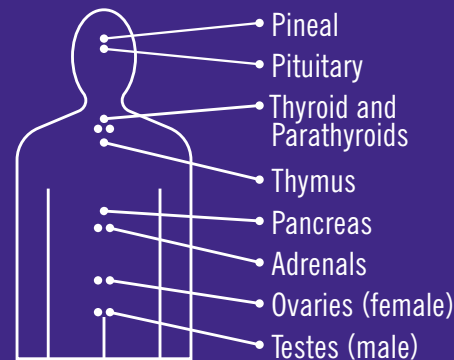
Hormones travel in your blood throughout the body and affect many organs, including your brain, heart, liver, kidneys, bone, skin and all endocrine glands.

Hormones initiate and regulate reproduction, growth and development, response to stress and the environment.

These natural chemicals also increase the body's efficiency and regulate activity levels, metabolism, appetite, thirst, digestion, blood circulation, salt and water balance and the excretion of metabolic waste.

What we do

As internists and endocrinologists, we provide treatment for a wide range of functions and disorders of the human body — diabetes, thyroid disorders, infertility, metabolism, glandular cancers, growth hormone deficiency, genetic dysfunction, heart disease, osteoporosis, obesity, and hormonal imbalances.



The Endocrine Glands



When you need an endocrinologist

Not everyone who suffers from endocrine disease needs an endocrinologist. Many hormonal problems are diagnosed and handled well by general internists. Our skills are necessary for complicated disorders, such as uncontrolled diabetes, thyroid cancer, pituitary dysfunction, familial endocrine and autoimmune disease.

Your internist can diagnose and treat uncomplicated hormonal disorders, such as well-controlled diabetes, hypothyroidism and follow-up treatment for hyperthyroidism.