# Internal Medicine and Family Medicine: Differences and Similarities

### **Internal Medicine**

## **Family Medicine**

Pursues mastery in specialized topics and thrives in focused, detail-oriented work.

**Approach** 

A broad-based approach that thrives on variety and big-picture thinking.

Adults 18 years or older

**Patient Population** 

Newborns to elders

At least 3 years of residency specialty training covering in-depth training and knowledge of the entire human body and its organ systems. This gives internal medicine physicians a unique perspective on how everything functions together, enabling them to diagnose, treat, and manage complex patient cases effectively. After earning board certification, physicians can choose to practice general internal medicine either as a primary care physician or a hospitalist. Others continue their training with an additional 1-4 years of subspecialty fellowship training to subspecialize in a specific area within internal medicine.

**Training** 

Residency training covers a broader range of patient care, including pediatrics, obstetrics, and geriatics. There is an emphasis on preventive medicine and outpatient practice but trainees also receive inpatient experience.

- -Cardiovascular Disease
- -Endocrinology, Diabetes & Metabolism
- -Gastroenterology
- -Transplant Hepatology
- -Hematology
- -Medical Oncology
- -Infectious Disease
- -Nephrology
- -Pulmonary Disease
- -Rheumatology
- -Allergy and Immunology
- -Critical Care Medicine
- -Neurocritical Care

Subspecialty Training Options





**Similarities** 

Both specialties have a foundation of 3 years of residency training.

Internal medicine and family medicine provide preventative and comprehensive longitudinal patient care. They also solve diagnostic problems and manage multiple chronic diseases throughout a patient's health care journey.

#### **Clinical Practice Settings**

Private Practice
Hospitals
Clinics
Urgent Care

#### **Nonclinical Practice Settings**

Medical Technology
Public Health
Health Care Policy
Research
Writing
Health Care Leadership
Physician Coaching
Health Care Administration

#### **Shared Subspecialty Options**

Adolescent Medicine Geriatric Medicine Hospice and Palliative Care Sleep Medicine Sports Medicine

