

## Hospitalist Program - Physician FAQs

**Q. What is a "hospitalist"?**

**A.** Hospitalists are physicians whose primary professional focus is the general medical care of hospitalized patients with emphasis on improving patients' safety and quality of care. Their activities include patient care, teaching, research, and leadership related to Hospital Medicine.

**Q. Why use a hospitalist?**

**A.** In an effort to meet the needs of their patients more effectively, many primary care physicians elect to focus on their office practice and use hospitalist physicians to care for their patients who require hospitalization.

1. Physicians using our service are more available to patients in their office practice and are able to focus their practice and continuing education on the unique challenges of outpatient medicine.

2. Hospitalists are specialists in inpatient care. By focusing their practice on the care of hospitalized patients, they bring experience and expertise to the dynamic and acute needs of hospitalized patients.

3. Hospitalists spend all of their day in the hospital. They are more readily available to patients and families throughout the day. They are also able to manage the complexities of care within the hospital effectively and ensure that patients receive the appropriate care at the appropriate time as safely as possible.

**Q. How can I have a hospitalist take care of my patient?**

**A.** We encourage primary care doctors to contact us and let us know if they would like to establish an ongoing relationship in which we provide care to their hospitalized patients. We will then add you to our list of referring physicians so that both the emergency room and medical residents make sure all of your patients are triaged to us.

Outpatient physicians may refer their patients to a hospitalist by calling the hospitalist on call (pager # 3000 via the EHMC operator) or by informing the emergency room doctor about the referral.

Some patients arrive at the emergency room without a doctor. If admitted, they may be cared for by a hospitalist. Also, surgeons and sub-specialists often ask hospitalists to help manage their patients who have needs beyond the scope of their specialty.

**Q. What if my patient needs a sub-specialist?**

**A.** The EHMC hospitalists have access to all of the outstanding sub-specialists on staff and ask for assistance whenever necessary. Many outpatient physicians and patients have preferred

consultants and we will make every effort to maintain these specific relationships if you let us know.

**Q. How will I know what is happening with my patient during their hospital stay?**

A. We call our referring primary care doctors office to notify them at admission, discharge and with any significant events. We also send detailed dictated reports at admission and discharge to be put into your outpatient medical record. Communication is the key to success!