

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As a member of Johns Hopkins Medicine, Suburban Hospital is

distinguished from other community-based hospitals in the region and nation in many ways, including our strong commitment to innovative, safe and high-quality patient care.

Another important attribute that sets us apart is our strong community-

based research program, made possible by our unique affiliation with the National Institutes of Health, located across the street from our hospital. By virtue of this geography, as well as our affiliation with Hopkins, we are able to quickly bring diagnostic and therapeutic breakthroughs from the laboratory to the bedside, to benefit our patients.

In this issue of *New Directions* you will read about a patient enrolled in a clinical trial for liver disease who went on to have a successful transplant at The Johns Hopkins Hospital. You will also read about patients whose lives were saved thanks to the efforts of the NIH-Suburban Stroke Team, as well as cardiologists and cardiac surgeons who work in the NIH Heart Center at Suburban Hospital. The goal of these programs is to identify and evaluate new strategies for treating stroke and cardiac disease.

At Suburban Hospital, we are proud to be able to offer our patients access to biomedical discoveries that can save their lives. Please visit the published links to our Web site to learn more.

Gene E. Green, M.D.

What Is a Hospitalist?

If you were to enter a hospital today, you likely would be introduced to a healthcare professional who specializes in internal medicine. Kidney Diseases. Registration is required.



A hospitalist is a medical professional who specializes in providing care for the hospitalized patient. All of the physicians in the hospitalist program at Suburban Hospital are board certified in internal medicine.

How many hospitalists work at Suburban Hospital?

Our team at Suburban consists of 19 full-time physicians, three physician assistants and one nurse practitioner. We also have 18 part-time physicians as part of our program.

What is the hospitalist's role in patient care?

Hospitalists know how to efficiently drive the course of the hospitalization. Thanks to advances in the diagnostic process as well as treatment tools available, hospital stays are much shorter today than ever before. Providing hospital care is no longer just about clinical knowledge and know-how; it is also about being able to coordinate care. As a dedicated team that works in only one hospital, we know what is unique and different about Suburban Hospital in terms of the resources available. We leverage those advantages for the benefit of our patients.

Who decides which patients will be seen by a hospitalist?

If your primary care physician still comes to the hospital, that physician will have the opportunity to provide care for you in the hospital setting. If your primary physician cannot be your lead physician, then we assume that responsibility.

The majority of our patients come through the emergency room. The remaining care is provided to us by other specialists, some of whom may have initiated the care but are now in need of help. Hospitalists co-manage these patients to meet their additional care needs.

Suburban Hospital began using hospitalists a little more than 10 years ago, starting with about 10 patients per day. Today, we see more than 100 patients per day, with hospitalists involved in the treatment of about 50 percent of all hospitalized patients at Suburban Hospital.

May I request to see a hospitalist if one has not been assigned to me?

If you are admitted to the hospital for a non-surgical condition and your primary care physician does not come to the hospital, you likely will be assigned to a hospitalist. For a condition that requires acute surgical intervention, like an acute appendicitis, a surgeon should be your primary physician.

If you have multiple chronic health conditions that could potentially flare up during an elective operation, it is very reasonable to ask for our assistance. This is just one more way that patients can be proactive about their health care. Requesting for a hospitalist team member must come from a physician, so you would talk to your primary physician who is overseeing your care, or a nurse, who will relay your request to the attending physician.

How do I benefit from having a hospitalist?

Hospital medicine today occurs across multiple specialties. We hold daily multidisciplinary rounds with nurses, physical therapists, social workers and case managers to ensure we are all familiar with what each patient might need not just today, but the day after as well. We address your clinical needs as well as your support needs. We want to ensure that you have the best success once you leave the hospital by leveraging the expertise of the nurses, the