

Hospitalist Program

Over the past decade, more than half of the hospitals in the United States have instituted hospitalist programs.

What is a hospitalist?

A hospitalist is a physician who only practices medicine in a hospital setting and has expertise with a wide range of illnesses from pneumonia to congestive heart failure. Because hospitalist physicians do not have clinic hours, they can devote all of their time to hospital patients. This means you will benefit from frequent visits from your hospitalist physician while hospitalized.

What does a hospitalist do?

During your hospital stay, a hospitalist physician serves your primary care needs and directs your treatment. A member of the hospitalist team is available to patients 24 hours a day. During your hospital stay, a hospitalist case manager will meet frequently with you and your family to discuss your needs and answer questions. At the time of discharge, your primary care provider is notified and updated with your latest medical conditions.

What if a family member is hospitalized for obstetric or pediatric care?

Monroe Clinic's hospitalists do not serve these specialties. Our obstetricians continue to handle deliveries and our pediatricians continue to attend to hospitalized pediatric patients.

Does my primary care provider participate in my care during my hospital stay?

No. During your hospital stay, your hospitalist physician serves your acute care needs and directs your treatment. Once discharged from the hospital, your primary care provider resumes treating any outpatient primary care needs.

My primary care provider is familiar with my family and me. How can a hospitalist know me in such a short period of time?

Similar to a clinic setting, a hospitalist will take a complete history and do a physical when you are admitted. While a hospitalist will focus on your main reason for admission, they will also know what chronic illnesses you have such as diabetes or high blood pressure.

What if I need specialist attention while I'm in the hospital?

Your hospitalist physician will assess your care needs and if needed, bring in the appropriate specialists for your situation. Your hospitalist physician will manage your team of specialists throughout your hospital stay.

What if I don't have a primary care provider?

Your hospitalist physician will help you find a primary care provider to take over your care when you leave the hospital.

What happens when I go home?

When you leave the hospital your hospitalist will handle the discharge arrangements including prescriptions, follow-up communications and appointments with your primary care provider. Your primary care provider will take over your care needs when you leave the hospital.

What if I need long-term or skilled nursing care after I leave the hospital?

Your hospitalist physician and hospital staff will work together to help you find an appropriate facility for the type of care you require.

How do Monroe Clinic's patients and their families benefit from the hospitalist program?

You'll receive expert medical care throughout the healing process as a result of the partnership between your hospitalist physician and primary care provider. Through daily consultations among your hospitalist physician, hospitalist case manager, and other members of your health care team, you receive care in a truly holistic approach. This unique partnership between hospitalist physicians and primary care providers affords your primary care provider the ability to offer more clinic hours.