Simply put, doctors of internal medicine are Doctors for Adults. Doctors of Internal Medicine are also called "internists" or "general internists." They are not to be confused with "interns," who are doctors in their first year of residency training. Internists are specially trained to solve puzzling diagnostic problems and can handle severe chronic illnesses and situations where several different illnesses may strike at the same time. At least three of their seven or more years of medical school and postgraduate training are dedicated to learning how to prevent, diagnose, and treat diseases that affect adults.

Internists are sometimes called the "doctor's doctor," because they are often called upon to act as consultants to other physicians to help solve complicated diagnostic problems. While the name "internal medicine" may lead one to believe that internists only treat "internal" problems, this is not the case. Doctors of Internal Medicine treat the whole person, not just internal organs. They also bring to patients an understanding of wellness (disease prevention and the promotion of health), women's health, men's health, mental health, and effective treatment of common problems of the eyes, ears, skin, heart, nervous system, and digestive system.

Some have no problems at all, while others have many serious health concerns. The Geriatrician strives to optimize the well being and independence of older people.

What is an Internist?

What is Family Medicine?

Family medicine is a medical specialty devoted to comprehensive health care to people of all ages. It is a form of primary care that provides continuing, comprehensive health care for the individual and family across all ages, sexes, diseases, and parts of the body.

Family physicians deliver a range of acute, chronic, and preventive medical care services. In addition to diagnosing and treating illness, they also provide preventive care, including routine checkups, health-risk assessments, immunization and screening tests, and personalized counseling on maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Family physicians also manage chronic illness and often coordinate care provided by other Internists.

What is a Geriatrician?

A Geriatrician is a medical doctor who is specially trained to prevent and manage the unique and, oftentimes, multiple health concerns of older adults.

People over the age of 55 may react or present symptoms to illness and disease differently than younger adults. In addition, older adults often react differently to medications than younger adults. Geriatricians are trained to treat older patients, manage multiple disease symptoms, and develop care plans that address the special health care needs of people over the age of 55.

The Geriatrician looks at many aspects of the patient's life. They evaluate the social support available to a patient and his or her living and community conditions. The Geriatrician and his/her team also considers the patient's ability to perform activities of daily living, such as bathing, dressing, and eating.

Regardless of an older person's age, a Geriatrician should be consulted when: (1) An older person's condition causes considerable impairment and frailty. These people tend to be over the age of 75 and coping with a number of diseases and disabilities, including cognitive (mental) problems, or (2) Family members and friends are feeling considerable stress and strain as caregivers. People over the age of 65 have different degrees of disability and illness. Some have no problems at all, while others have many serious health concerns. The Geriatrician strives to optimize the well being and independence of older people.

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Internists are equipped to deal with whatever problem a patient brings...no matter how common or rare, or how simple or complex.