

Your Care Team

Frequently Asked Questions

What is an academic medical center?

As an academic medical center, or teaching hospital, the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics is the primary site for educating future health care providers training at the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine.

What are the benefits of having additional providers involved with my care?

Additional providers involved with your care means there are more health care professionals devoted to you. Medical students, residents, and fellows are able to offer a fresh perspective, while faculty physicians are able to offer experience. Teamwork and balance are essential to providing outstanding, well-rounded patient care.

Will I have to see a medical student, resident, or fellow?

It is always your choice to have additional involvement in your care. Your decision will always be respected.

Why should I allow students and physicians in training to be involved with my care?

As a patient, you play an important role in teaching future health care providers. Every patient is unique, so each interaction provides medical students, residents, and fellows with a valuable educational opportunity.

How are medical students involved in my care?

While responsibilities may vary, some common duties include:

- Meeting with you one-on-one to discuss your medical history
- Meeting with you one-on-one to do a physical exam
- Observing your conversation with a physician

With the guidance and supervision of staff physicians, advanced students may be asked to assist with procedures.



MEDICAL STUDENT

Medical students have a college degree and are currently enrolled in medical school. During medical school, students spend time in the hospital gaining hands-on experience by observing physicians and learning from patient interactions. This experience helps medical students choose which area of medicine they want to pursue.



RESIDENT PHYSICIAN

Resident physicians have received their degree from medical school. During this stage of training, residents work under the direct or indirect supervision of an attending physician in their chosen medical specialty. Residency training typically takes between three and seven years to complete depending on the program.



FELLOW PHYSICIAN

Fellow physicians have completed medical school and residency training. Physicians who choose to complete a fellowship receive additional training in a subspecialty. A subspecialty is a specific area of medicine within a medical specialty. Fellowship training typically takes one to two years to complete depending on the program.



ATTENDING PHYSICIAN

Attending physicians, who are sometimes referred to as staff physicians or faculty physicians, have completed all the medical training necessary to work at an academic medical center. Attending physicians supervise medical students, resident physicians, and fellow physicians who are training in the same specialty or subspecialty.