

Patient Education

Hospitalists at WPSHC



What is a Hospitalist?

A Hospitalist is a physician that specializes in in-patient medicine.

Some of their activities include:

- ✓ **Patient care.**
- ✓ **Teaching.**
- ✓ **Research.**
- ✓ **Leadership related to Hospital Care.**

Purpose of the role

- The Hospitalist role has been developed at WPSHC as one response to the local shortage of physicians.
- Family physicians have multiple roles in health care delivery in this community, including anesthesia, surgical assist, obstetrics and the emergency department in addition to a busy office practice.
- The Hospitalist role helps to improve work life balance while at the same time potential benefits for in-patient care. The role has been in place in tertiary care facilities for some time and is now being developed in a number of community hospitals across the province.
- The Hospitalist role offers many advantages. The system has been designed to meet the needs of our community.
- There are two family doctors each week who are Hospitalists. Each doctor is assigned to half the patients within the health centre – excluding the intensive care and obstetrical patients. The assignment happens on Monday morning.
- The admitting department divides and assigns patients to each Hospitalist every week.

The Benefits

This is an exciting new role that physicians have assumed!

- The role is likely to evolve over time.
- Benefits of the role, that are quickly becoming evident, include the enhanced communications and coordination of patient care that come with the consistent physician presence on the unit.

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What if you are here for surgery?

- Your doctor is the Hospitalist that you are assigned and your Surgeon is responsible for your surgical care.

What if you are in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU)?

- When you are a patient in the ICU, a member of the internal medicine team is the doctor for your care. The Hospitalist may take over your care when you leave the ICU.

When Hospitalists see patients

- The Hospitalists work from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Monday to Friday. They work four hours (usually 8 a.m. to noon) on Saturday and Sunday. If you are admitted late in the day, you will not see the Hospitalist until the next day. Doctors in the Emergency Department will take charge of your care.

Learn more about Hospitalists

- Please speak with your Clinical Team Leader or Clinical Care Coordinator with any questions regarding the role.

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