

## DEFINITIONS

- **Medical students** - individuals in medical school; they are not referred to as a doctor or physician until they graduate from medical school.
- **Interns** - physicians who have completed their first year of post-medical school training (and have graduated medical school). The intern does NOT have the right to practice unsupervised medicine and must practice within the confines of the training program in which they are enrolled.
- **Residents** - physicians who have completed the internship year and a third level of a licensing exam has been passed successfully. The physician may practice as a general practitioner. Residency can range from an additional two years of education up to seven years of training depending on specialty.
- **Fellows** - physicians who have completed their residency and elect to complete further training in a specialty. The fellowship is optional and not required to practice medicine but is necessary for training in a subspecialty.
- **Attending physicians** - experts in the field of medicine. These physicians work at a facility that provides education to physicians and play an active role in education. The RVHC attending physicians oversee the practice residency program and educational components of the students.

## ALL TYPES OF PHYSICIANS

Doctors of Osteopathic Medicine (DOs) have a more holistic view of medicine in which the focus is on seeing the patient as a “whole person” to reach a diagnosis, rather than treating the symptoms alone. The belief is that all body parts work together to influence each other. Osteopathic medicine places emphasis on the prevention of disease. In medical school, there is specific training on osteopathic manipulative treatment (OMT), a hands-on approach to diagnosis and treatment, as well as disease prevention.

Medical Doctors (MDs) are physicians that practice allopathic medicine, the classical form of medicine, focused on the diagnosis and treatment of human diseases.

## WHITE COAT SIGNIFICANCE

Short and long white coats have a purpose. The short white coats are worn by medical students who are not physicians until they graduate from medical school. Residents wear longer coats and attendings wear full-length coats. Other healthcare professionals also wear lab coats; however, the length rule applies most in the residency clinics such as RVHC.

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Educating Tomorrow's  
Doctors and Caring for  
Today's Patients

## INTERNAL MEDICINE RESIDENCY PROGRAM

At Rocky Vista Health Center (RVHC), we have a unique residency program in conjunction with the Sky Ridge Medical Center's Internal Medicine Residency Program.

The Internal Medicine Residency Program has had a long track record of transforming great medical students into outstanding physicians, educators, and scientists. We train leaders in internal medicine who are setting new standards in patient care and scientific investigation. We take particular pride in preparing our residents to be agents of change who, through inquiry or practice improvement, are prepared to advance the science and art of medicine while creating the health care system of the future.

Many physicians in training are attracted to the RVHC residency program because of the emphasis placed on preparing them to be educators of their patients and peers within the health care community.



RVHC is on the same campus as Rocky Vista University (RVU) College of Osteopathic Medicine, which was established in 2006 as the nation's first private, for-profit health sciences university to offer a professional medical degree since 1910. RVU selected Colorado as its home for the first campus due to the large number of counties designated as medically underserved areas, with only one other medical school to serve the state. RVU opened a second campus in Utah in 2017 due to the shortage of primary care physicians in the state.



At RVHC and RVU, we provide quality health-care education while inspiring students to serve with compassion, integrity and excellence. We expect our students, administration, staff and all involved with our organization to abide by certain core values: Integrity, Excellence, Collegiality, Service, Compassion, Diversity, and Innovation.

## PRIMARY CARE AND SPECIALTY NEEDS

RVHC offers our patients Internal Medicine residents, Osteopathic Neuromusculoskeletal Medicine residents, and a Podiatrist. We are attempting to provide as much care for as many specialties as we can in our office for patient convenience.

At RVHC, each resident is in our clinic for one-half to one full day a week. We recommend you choose a primary care physician and discuss who they would recommend as an alternate in the event they are not available and you require an appointment or medication refill.

All internal medicine residents are with RVHC for a total of three years and will provide you with your primary care needs for the duration of their residency. Upon their completion of the program, they will advise you of a transition of care plan in which you will transition your care to a new resident that will take over your primary care needs for the next three years.

The ONMM3 residents are with RVHC for a 1-year residency and provide OMM (osteopathic manipulative medicine) care, as well as many other procedures. You do not have to be a patient of RVHC for Internal Medicine to be referred to our OMM specialty program. However, your primary care provider must refer you. This is the only part of our practice in which our specially trained residents are able to provide services to infants, children, and OB/GYN patients. Please see our sports medicine and OMM brochure for additional information.