

# Newly-certified general internists mainly choose hospital practice

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Newly certified general internists mainly choose hospital medicine as

their career path, according to a study published online May 17 in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*.

Bradley M. Gray, Ph.D., from the American Board of Internal Medicine in Philadelphia, and colleagues measured changes in practice setting for [general internists](#). A total of 67,902 general internists, comprising 80% of all internists certified from 1990 to 2017, were studied.

The researchers found that both hospitalists and outpatient-only physicians increased as percentages of general internists from 2008 to 2018 (25 to 40% and 23 to 38%, respectively). This increase was accompanied by a decline from 52 to 23% in the percentage of mixed-practice physicians, as these physicians mainly migrated to outpatient-only practice. By 2018, 71 and 8% of newly certified general internists practiced as hospitalists and outpatient-only physicians, respectively. Eighty-six percent of hospitalists in 2013 had the same practice type five years later. This rate of retention was similar across early-career and more senior [physicians](#) (85 and 86% for those initially certified in 1999 and 2012, respectively) and for the outpatient-only practice type (95%); the retention rate was 57% for the mixed-practice type.

"The percentage of newly certified general internists electing to focus on [hospital medicine](#) increased substantially from 2008 to 2018," the authors write. "Our findings suggest that this is not a temporary choice but reflects a more permanent [career](#) decision."

**More information:** Bradley M. Gray et al, Evolving Practice Choices by Newly Certified and More Senior General Internists, *Annals of Internal Medicine* (2022). [DOI: 10.7326/M21-4636](https://doi.org/10.7326/M21-4636)

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