



A Patient's Guide to Penn Highlands Healthcare Hospitalist Program

When an illness or emergency arises and your healthcare issues require a hospital stay for medical or surgical care, Penn Highlands Healthcare has special physicians to ensure a fast and efficient response to your needs.



**Penn
Highlands
Healthcare**

PENN HIGHLANDS BROOKVILLE

100 Hospital Road
Brookville, PA 15825

PENN HIGHLANDS DUBOIS

100 Hospital Avenue
DuBois, PA 15801

PENN HIGHLANDS ELK

763 Johnsonburg Road
St. Marys, PA 15857

www.phhealthcare.org

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Hospital-Based Physician Care at Penn Highlands Healthcare



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What is a hospitalist?

A **HOSPITALIST** is a physician who specializes in the care of hospitalized patients and their unique conditions. Because hospitalists do not maintain a practice outside of the hospital, they can focus all of their attention on patients inside the hospital. Hospitalists manage your hospital care, coordinating and consulting with specialists, monitoring your progress and staying in close touch with you, your family and your primary care physician.

PENN HIGHLANDS HEALTHCARE HOSPITALIST PROGRAM

The Hospitalist Program is made up of a team of physicians and physician assistants. They work closely with your primary care physician and specialists to ensure that you are carefully monitored and receive the best possible care. All Penn Highlands Healthcare hospitalists are either board certified or board eligible in internal medicine/family medicine.

How the Hospitalist Program works

When you are admitted to the hospital, your primary care physician brings your hospitalist up to date about your condition and medical history and transfers the management of your care to the hospitalist team. Because your hospitalist is always in the hospital, he/she can consistently monitor your progress, follow-up on test results and continuously adjust your treatment regimen throughout the day based on your outcomes. The hospitalists are always close so they may answer questions that you or your family may have during your stay.



WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF BEING CARED FOR BY A HOSPITALIST?

Hospitalists work only in the hospital and are available day and night. They closely monitor you during your hospitalization and are accessible in cases of emergencies and whenever concerns arise. In addition, your hospitalist knows every specialist and department in the hospital, ensuring fast turnaround of tests and treatments. Hospitalists provide the highest quality care in a timely and personalized manner.

WHEN WILL I SEE MY REGULAR DOCTOR AGAIN?

The hospitalist team updates your primary care physician about your progress and will coordinate your care with him/her to ensure a smooth

transition back to your primary care physician after you are discharged from the hospital.

If you don't have a primary care physician, Penn Highlands Healthcare can help you find one who can manage your care after you go home. When you are discharged from the hospital, two important things will take place:

- The hospitalist will contact the patient's primary care physician to provide updates and access to any information obtained or created during the hospital stay.
- A follow-up appointment will automatically be scheduled with the patient's primary care physician. You can return to the regular care of your primary care physician knowing that a skilled hospitalist will always be available to meet your needs if you return for inpatient care.