



Family Doctor

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Job Description:

Family and general practitioners help people maintain and improve their health.

Wages:

Average median yearly pay is about \$150,000 a year in Utah

Gross Monthly Income:

\$12,500

Schedule: Work long but set shifts. May be on-call, which means available to work short notice to handle emergencies.



Advancement:

Many physicians advance their careers by getting additional training and learning new skills. They can also increase the number of patients they see. After many years of experience, doctors who work in hospitals may become administrators. Others who do research or teach in universities may become department heads. Some family and general practitioners advance by opening their own practice.

Education & Experience:

- ◆ Completed High School
- ◆ Have a Bachelor's Degree
- ◆ Graduate from Medical school
- ◆ Complete an internship
- ◆ Pass a state licensing exam
- ◆ Complete a residency program
- ◆ Pass additional exams to become

High

School Courses:

- ◆ Anatomy and Physiology
- ◆ Child Development
- ◆ Computer Applications
- ◆ Food and Nutrition
- ◆ Introduction to Health Care

Work Conditions:

- ◆ High level of social interaction. Sometimes deal with patients that are unpleasant, angry, or discourteous.
- ◆ Often placed in conflict situations in which they must deal with patients and family members who might be angry or unpleasant.
- ◆ Are exposed daily to the diseases or infections that their patients have.
- ◆ Work very near others. They must come into close physical contact with patients.

Job Outlook:



Large

Hours a Week:

70

Leisure Time:

Low

Knowledge:

- ◆ Medicine & Dentistry
- ◆ Psychology
- ◆ Customer & Personal Service
- ◆ Biology
- ◆ English Language
- ◆ Chemistry
- ◆ Mathematics



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Overview

Family and general practitioners are doctors who see a wide variety of people. Most are primary care physicians and are often the first point of contact for people seeking health care. They may see infants, children, and adults both young and old. They see the same patients on a regular basis. When needed, they send patients to health care specialists for testing or treatment.

Family and general practitioners ask patients questions to learn more about their medical history. They examine patients and order lab tests. They also explain test results and review treatment options with patients and their families. If more than one treatment is available, they help patients decide which option to choose. Sometimes family and general practitioners perform minor surgery on patients or deliver babies. They watch a patient's condition and make changes in the treatment if needed. They also talk to patients about good health practices, such as diet and exercise.

Family and general practitioners assign tasks to nurses and other health care workers. They also regularly consult with other health care professionals. In private practice, they may oversee the business aspects of running an office. Family and general practitioners make sure to keep detailed records about each patient. They write reports for insurance companies and government agencies that collect data on births and deaths.

Some family and general practitioners teach at medical schools. They may also do research on procedures and treatments for disease. Advances in medicine require doctors to update their skills regularly.

Pathway:

Health Science