

Why is a hospitalist caring for me?

A hospitalist is a board certified physician who is dedicated to exclusively care for patients admitted in a hospital. Hospitalists are often trained in Internal Medicine or Family Practice.

When you are admitted to Ridgcrest Regional Hospital (RRH), you may be cared for by one or more hospitalists.

That means, during your stay at RRH you will have 24/7 access to a physician who is committed to care for you and is not required to leave the hospital to see their office patients.



What is the role of a hospitalist?

At RRH, our team of hospitalists works closely with each other to manage your care. During the course of your stay, if your care is transferred from one hospitalist to another due to physician rotation and schedule, the incoming hospitalist will already have all the details of your medical history, treatment plan and next course of action.

While in the hospital your hospitalist will:



- Communicate and work with your primary care physician to manage your care.
- Be available immediately if a medical emergency or change in a patient's condition arises.



- Order tests and consult with other specialists to manage your care and treatments. If you have already been seeing other specialist/s, be sure to let your hospitalists know so that they can communicate and manage your care with your preferred specialist.



- Arrange for transfers to an appropriate level of care such as, higher level of care when medical needs can't be met at RRH, for rehabilitation, or skilled nursing care.



- Provide prescriptions you may need at discharge.
- Ensure a smooth transition back to your primary care physician once you are discharged. If you do not have a primary care physician, the hospitalist can refer you to one when you leave the hospital.
- Answer any questions or concerns of patients or their families. Since they are available 24/7 in the hospital, your hospitalist is able to dedicate more time talking to you and your family about your care.

How is the transfer of my care handled from the hospitalist to my primary care provider?

When you are admitted to RRH, the hospitalist will inform your primary care physician about your condition.

Your physician will then provide necessary medical history and information to transfer the management of care to the hospitalist team.

At the time of admission and discharge, the hospitalist will prepare a detailed report of your condition and treatment plans. Even though the hospitalist will primarily manage your care while you're admitted, your primary care physician is more than welcome to check on your and discuss your care with the hospitalist.

What if I don't have a primary care provider?

If you do not have a primary care physician, the hospitalist may refer you to a local primary care provider when you leave the hospital.

What should I do if I have any questions or concerns after my discharge?

You or your primary care physician may call 760.446.3551 and ask to be transferred to the hospitalist after discharge for any questions or information about your hospital stay.

Will I receive a separate bill for hospitalist services?

Yes, the billing process is similar to being billed by your primary care physician or other medical specialist for a hospital visit.