

This is a teaching practice. We partner with Dalhousie University to provide medical education to medical students and residents.

Medical Students

Dalhousie University has a four year medical school program. In the first two years, students do most of their training in classes, labs, and small group teaching sessions. They also have some opportunities to see patients. They are sometimes called junior medical students.

In the second two years of medical school, students learn mostly by seeing patients in many settings such as doctors' offices and hospitals. They are sometimes called clinical clerks or senior medical students.

Medical students must be closely supervised by your physician. They are able to talk to you to find out about the problem that brought you into the doctor's office (this is called taking a history). They can do a physical examination. Sometimes your physician will watch the student do these - this helps the student to learn.

After seeing you, the medical student will review everything with your physician. They will talk to them about what they think might be causing your problem and what to do to help you. Before you leave the office you will be seen by your physician.

Residents

After students graduate from medical school they receive their medical degree (MD). In order to practice they must complete a residency program. The Family Medicine residency program is two years.

Residents are able to see you on their own to talk to you about the problem that brought you into the doctor's office. They can order tests and prescribe medications.

Sometimes a resident will consult with your physician during your visit to ask their opinion or advice. Depending on your problem you may not see your physician. The resident will discuss your problem with your physician by the end of the working day to make sure that the problem was managed appropriately.

You can always ask to see your physician during your visit with the resident.

What does the medical student/ resident add to your physician's practice?

Having a medical student or resident in the office is a great thing for your physician - it's fun to teach! In some cases your physician may be trying to recruit new doctors to your community. Your doctor may also want to teach as a way to give back for the teaching he/she had. It also helps your physician to stay up-to-date with new advances in medicine, which improves the care that you will receive.

