



What is Concierge Medicine?

While many primary care physicians in the United States have an average of 3,000 - 5,000 patients, physicians who practice concierge medicine provide personalized care for a limited number of patients by offering individuals and families the option of private membership. For an annual fee, patients have access to benefits that are currently unavailable in many primary care practices.

By significantly reducing the number of patients seen in a day, concierge physicians are able to spend extra time and attention with each patient, restoring the doctor-patient relationship that is missing from many primary care offices. This personalized approach means excellent care for patients when they are sick, thorough annual physical exams that help to identify health issues early on and comprehensive management of personal wellness and long-term conditions. These benefits and many more make the practice of concierge medicine one of the fastest growing medical trends in the country.

Immediate Benefits

- **Guaranteed Access** – Concierge physicians are often available to their patients 24/7 by email or phone and are guaranteed same-day appointments. With increased access to care, patients can identify and address health issues early on, when they are more treatable.
- **Improved Quality** – By spending more time with each patient, physicians are able to provide more thorough care. Focus is placed on the patient experience, not the number of patients seen in a day.
- **Time Savings** – Members are often guaranteed same-day appointments, with no wait. Appointments start on time and end when patients feel their health concerns have been addressed.
- **Care Coordination** – Concierge medicine facilitates quality care management. If a patient requires treatment by a specialist, the physician will contact recommended specialists directly, minimizing wait time and patient responsibility. All health events (within or outside of the practice) are recorded to ensure continuity of care.
- **Lifestyle Consultations** – With a focus on overall well-being and sustained health, concierge physicians help their patients develop a personal wellness plan addressing proper nutrition, daily exercise and health habits.

Long-Term Outcomes

- **Meaningful Relationships** – Care provided by the same physician in a stress-free environment results in a positive and productive doctor-patient partnership.
- **Early Detection** – Regular, thorough examinations identify health issues early and allow for proactive management.
- **Financial Savings** – Patients can reduce long term costs through thoughtful management of emerging health risks. Those with tax-free employee health spending accounts may be able to use those funds towards annual fees, reducing membership expenses.
- **Disease Management** – Smaller case-loads and lengthier appointments allow physicians to be more engaged and attentive with patients managing chronic conditions.
- **Continuity of Care** – Regular check-ups with the same physician and accurate medical records are critical to avoiding major health issues and keeping patients out of the hospital.
- **Preventive Medicine** – The goal of concierge medicine is not only to identify health issues, but to keep them from arising by fostering preventive behaviors and focusing on overall health.

Concierge practice members typically pay an annual fee that covers the benefits described above. Many practices also work with an individual's insurance company – even Medicare – to cover the cost of office visits and consultations outside of the practice, such as laboratory procedures, medicines, hospitalizations or emergent care. For more information, visit www.principalmedicalgroup.com.