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Dubuque Internal Medicine, P.C., in collaboration with Finley Hospital, has established a team of highly qualified, experienced physicians known as HOSPITALISTS. These physicians specialize in the care of patients while they are in the hospital. Hospitalists work in partnership with your referring physician. Your primary doctor may ask that a hospitalist direct your care during this hospital stay.

**How does the Hospitalist program work?**
The hospitalist care team will be there for you throughout your hospital stay. During your stay, they will:
- Assess and treat your medical condition.
- Coordinate your hospital care, including all diagnostic tests such as x-rays, blood test, and other exams.
- Keep your primary care doctor informed of your progress.
- Transition your care back to your primary care physician when you are ready to be discharged from the hospital.

**Why is my primary care physician NOT available to see me now?**
The care of the hospitalized patient is becoming more and more complex. In addition, there are increasing demands on your primary care physician in the outpatient setting. Because of these issues, many communities across the country and even in Iowa, are using HOSPITALISTS to provide care for all hospitalized patients. By using physicians focused on your care while hospitalized, we believe your care will be enhanced.

**How will my doctor know what’s happening during my stay at the hospital?**
Your doctor is fully aware of the fact that you are here and has requested the hospitalist to care for his/her patients that require hospitalization. Your physician will be notified of your admission and will be kept abreast of any significant changes that occur during your hospital stay. Once you are discharged, your doctor will be notified in writing about the details of your hospitalization. Every effort is made to assure smooth transition back to your primary care physician.

**Who will see me after discharge?**
The Dubuque Internal Medicine Hospitalist will arrange your follow-up appointment. You will be seen by your primary care physician and/or any needed sub-specialist after you are discharged.

**Transition to a full hospitalist program:**
The hospitalist program began in December 2008 with two providers. In August 2013, the hospitalist program expanded to five providers. With five providers, the hospitalist program, in conjunction with the wide array of specialists available in Dubuque, is able to provide comprehensive hospital care from admission to discharge. Not all primary care physicians will be participating in the hospitalist service immediately starting August 2013 but over a several month period, the goal is to expand this service to most adult patients in the hospital.