

Know your Doctor. What Are an Endocrinologist's Qualifications?

DO YOU KNOW YOUR DOCTOR?						
There is an abundance of "doctors" in healthcare today and it can be very confusing. Every patient has a right to make an informed decision about who they are seeing. If you don't know what type your doctor is, please ask! #itsoktoask #beinformed						
Degree/Title	Minimum years supervised education after college	Supervised residency training required after degree	Minimum clinical hours PRIOR to unsupervised practice	Number of exams required to obtain license	Board licensing agency	Able to change specialties without further training
MD (Doctor of Medicine) DO (Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine) MBBS (Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery)-international Medical School	7-13 depends on specialty	Yes 3-9 years	18,000-33,000 varies by specialty	4 AND 1-3 board certification exams in specialty	Medicine	NO
DPM (Doctor of Podiatric Medicine)	7	Yes 3 years	10,000	4 AND 1 board certification exam	Podiatry	NO
PhD (Doctorate of Philosophy) PsyD (Doctorate of Psychology) not same as Psychiatrist***	5 4	Yes 1 year	1500	1-2 state dependent	Psychology	NO
OD (Doctorate of Optometry) not same as ophthalmologist***	4	No	3300	3	Optometry	NO
PharmD (Doctorate of Pharmacy)	4	No	3200	2	Pharmacy	NO
DC (Doctor of Chiropractic)	4 some online	No	2000	4	Chiropractic	NO
PA (Physician Assistant)	2	No	2000	1	PA or Medicine	YES
CRNA (Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist) Nursing school	2	No	550 cases	1	Nursing	NO
ARNP (Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner) DNP (Doctorate of Nursing Practice) Nursing school	1 some 100% online 1.5	No	500	1 (not required in Ca, KS, IN)	Nursing	YES
ND (Doctor of Naturopathic) uses nutrition, vitamins, minerals	4 some online	No	Unknown	0-1 in 19 states	Allowed in 19 states, unregulated in others	NO

Do you really want a Nurse Practitioner, Physician Assistant, or Naturopath making your medical decisions? Do you want to see endocrinologists that allow for employment of mid-level providers to care for "routine" hormone issues? Are you a "routine" case?

Board-certified Endocrinologists are experts in the endocrine glands which include diseases of the thyroid, adrenals, ovaries, testes, pituitary, parathyroid, and insulin-producing cells of the pancreas. Endocrinologists are medical doctors who have completed rigorous training, as follows:

- A four-year undergraduate degree followed by four years of medical school training.
- At least 3 years in an accredited Internal medicine (or pediatric) residency program to become internists, followed by a passage of the American Board of Internal Medicine certification exam to become "board certified in adult internal medicine."
- At least 2-3 years of specialty training in an accredited Endocrinology and Metabolism training program followed by passage of the American Board of Internal Medicine specialty certification to become "board certified in adult endocrinology."