

ABSTRACT

Gregg A. Warshaw, MD, Elizabeth J. Bragg, PhD, RN, David C. Thomas, MD, MS, Dave Brewer, BS, and Mona Ho, MS. Are Internal Medicine Residency Programs Adequately Preparing Physicians to Care for the Baby Boomers? A National Survey from the Association of Directors of Geriatric Academic Programs Status of Geriatrics Workforce Study. *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*. 2006;54:1603-1609.

Patients 65 years and older currently make up 39% of the ambulatory visits to internal medicine physicians. This article describes the progress made in training internal medicine residents to care for older Americans. Program directors in Internal Medicine residency programs accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education were surveyed in the spring of 2005. Findings from this survey were compared to a similar 2002 survey to determine whether any changes had occurred. A 60% response rate was achieved (n=235). In these three-year residency training programs, 20 programs (9%) required less than two weeks of clinical instruction that was specifically structured to teach geriatric care principles; 48 (21%) at least two weeks but less than four weeks; 144 (62%) at least four weeks but less than six weeks; and 21 (9%) required six or more weeks. As in 2002, IM residency programs continue to depend on nursing home facilities, geriatric preceptors in non-geriatric clinical ambulatory settings, and outpatient geriatric assessment centers for their geriatrics training. Training was most often offered in a block format. The mean number of physician faculty per residency program dedicated to teaching geriatric medicine was 3.5 full-time equivalents (FTEs) (range, 0 to 50), as compared to a mean of 2.2 FTE faculty in 2002 ($p < 0.001$). Internal Medicine educators are continuing to improve the training of residents so as they become practicing physicians they will have the knowledge and skills in geriatric medicine to care for older adults.

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