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When you say that you're going to see a doctor, you may be referring to two types of medical professionals: MDs and DOs. Each title refers to the type of degree and licensing the doctor has. Both MDs and DOs have similar training and duties, but they differ in a few key areas. MDs and DOs are two types of medical professionals. These titles refer to the type of degree and licensing the doctor has. Both MDs and DOs have similar training and duties, but they differ in a few key areas including their approach to care. (Photo Credit: DigitalVision/Getty Images) MD stands for doctor of medicine. MDs are allopathic doctors. That means they treat and diagnose conditions using conventional medical tools like X-rays, prescription drugs, and surgery. Allopathic medicine is also called conventional or mainstream medicine.MDs can choose to be broad practitioners and work as family medicine or primary care doctors. They can also specialize in many areas, which requires further education, including:SurgerySpecific body parts or organsPsychiatryGeriatric medicinePediatricsDO stands for doctor of osteopathic medicine. They use the same conventional medical techniques as MDs but with a few other methods. DOs tend to focus more on holistic health and prevention. In holistic health, all parts of a person, including their mind, body, and emotions, are considered during the treatment. They also use a system of physical manipulations and adjustments to diagnose and treat people. More than half of DOs work in primary care, but they can also specialize in another area, just like MDs.DOs have all the same responsibilities and rights as MDs, including the abilities to perform surgery with proper training and prescribe medicine.MDs and DOs follow similar educational routes. They must first earn a 4-year undergraduate degree, and most will take pre-medicine courses during this time. After getting an undergraduate degree, they will attend either medical school or a college of osteopathic medicine.After finishing 4 years of medical education, MDs and DOs must complete an internship and a residency. A residency is on-the-job training under the supervision of more experienced doctors. Some MDs and DOs will also go on to do fellowships to learn more about a specialty. MDs and DOs often train side by side in residencies and internships, despite going to different types of schools. Both MDs and DOs must also take a licensing exam in order to practice medicine professionally. The type of licensing exam taken depends on the state that the MD or DO resides in.MDs and DOs provide similar quality of care. One study examined the health outcomes of over 300,000 hospitalized Medicare patients, some of whom were treated by an MD and some of whom were treated by a DO. The study showed that patients treated by MDs vs. DOs had nearly identical lengths of stay, readmission rates, death rates, and costs.There are a lot more MDs than DOs in the United States. Almost 9 in 10 doctors who went to a U.S. medical school have an MD degree. One study found that around 19% of doctor's visits were to DOs, and 81% were to MDs.Both allopathic medical schools and colleges of osteopathic medicine are competitive to get into. However, students attending colleges of osteopathic medicine have slightly lower average GPAs and MCAT scores compared to students attending medical schools. These lower GPAs and MCAT scores do not necessarily reflect the quality of students in DO programs. There are fewer students in colleges of osteopathic medicine compared to allopathic medical schools. Only a quarter of medical students in the U.S. attend a college of osteopathic medicine. But interest in the DO degree is rising: between 2011-2012 and 2021-2022, enrollment in DO programs increased by 68%.DOs also learn about how the bones, nerves, and muscles work together and influence people’s health. They spend extra time (usually about 200 hours) studying osteopathic manipulative medicine (OMM). This is also called osteopathic manipulative technique (OMT). OMT focuses on methods used to relieve back pain, neck pain, strained muscles, and other conditions. MDs and DOs have slightly different approaches to medicine.MDs focus on looking at your symptoms and making a diagnosis based on those symptoms. They tend to take a more targeted approach to treatment.DOs, on the other hand, see the body as an integrated whole and treat health issues accordingly. This is called a holistic approach, and it is the foundation of osteopathic medicine. Because of this holistic view, they usually focus more on prevention. They may also make more lifestyle recommendations compared witho MDs.Some MDs may also take a holistic approach to medicine, but not all of them will.Both DOs and MDs are good doctors with professional training. A lot of their training is very similar, and both types of doctor use technology like X-rays and prescriptions. If you went to an MD and a DO, you probably wouldn’t notice a lot of differences. In fact, you might not be able to tell the difference at all. If you’re choosing between seeing an MD vs. DO, here are some things to think about:Approach. MDs tend to focus on diagnosing and treating one part of the body. DOs tend to think about how different parts of the body work together. For example, they might think about how skeletal conditions could affect your muscles.Location. Some areas have more MDs, and some have more DOs. For example, about 19% of doctors in New Jersey with a U.S. medical degree are DOs, compared with 7% in Alabama. See who practices in your area.Specialty. DOs tend to work in certain specialties, like family medicine, internal medicine, and pediatrics. About 3 in 5 DOs work in these fields. About 22% of family medicine doctors with a U.S. medical school degree are DOs.Health conditions. DOs are trained in osteopathic manipulative medicine, a technique where they use their hands to apply gentle pressure on or stretch certain body parts. This can be used to diagnose and treat musculoskeletal pain and conditions like asthma, constipation, headaches, repetitive stress injuries, and sinus infections.Patient satisfaction. One survey showed that people who had seen osteopathic doctors were more satisfied with their treatment than those who had been to allopathic doctors, chiropractors, and other types of health care providers. When you look up a doctor online, you might be able to find previous patient ratings.While the OMM techniques performed by DOs seem similar to those used by chiropractors, the two fields are different. Unlike DOs, chiropractors cannot practice medicine. Chiropractors focus more on the musculoskeletal system and spinal alignment. DOs can practice medicine like an MD, and they focus on holistic and preventative medicine.Both MDs and DOs are well-trained doctors that can give you the care you need. They have similar training, although DOs spend extra time studying how the bones, nerves, and muscles work together. Because of this, DOs tend to approach medicine from a more holistic perspective, which means they think about how all your organs work together. Neither type of doctor is better than the other, so you can pick the approach you feel most comfortable with.Can MDs perform surgery? Both MDs and DOs can specialize in surgery. About 94% of surgeons with a U.S. medical degree have an MD.What does DO stand for in medicine? DO stands for doctor of osteopathic medicine. Do surgeons earn more than physicians? It depends on the specialty. In 2023, orthopedic surgeons made an average salary of $378,250. Meanwhile, cardiologists made $449,320 and pediatricians made $205,860.What are osteopathic medicine examples? Osteopathic medicine is a holistic or broad view of health that considers how different organ systems work together. Doctors of osteopathic medicine, or DOs, can specialize in any area of medicine, but most choose to work in family care, internal medicine, or pediatrics. do , do , doest, dost , does , doeth, doth , do , did , did , didst , did , did , done , doing .to perform (an act, duty, role, etc.).Do nothing until you hear the bell.to execute (a piece or amount of work).to accomplish; finish; complete.He has already done his homework.to put forth; exert.to be the cause of (good, harm, credit, etc.); bring about; effect.to render, give, or pay (homage, justice, etc.).to deal with, fix, clean, arrange, move, etc., (anything) as the case may require.to travel; traverse.to serve; suffice for.This will do us for the present.to condone or approve, as by custom or practice.That sort of thing simply isn't done.to travel at the rate of (a specified speed).He was doing 80 when they arrested him.to make or prepare.to serve (a term of time) in prison, or, sometimes, in office.to create, form, or bring into being.She does wonderful oil portraits.to translate into or change the form or language of.MGM did the book into a movie.to study or work at or in the field of.I have to do my math tonight.to explore or travel through as a sightseer.They did Greece in three weeks.(used with a pronoun, as it or that, or with a general noun, as thing, that refers to a previously mentioned action).You were supposed to write thank-you letters; do it before tomorrow, please.Informal. to wear out; exhaust; tire.That last set of tennis did me.Informal. to cheat, trick, or take advantage of.That crooked dealer did him for $500 at poker.Informal. to attend or participate in.Let's do lunch next week.Slang. to use (a drug or drugs), especially habitually.The police report said he was doing cocaine.Slang. to rob; steal from.The law got him for doing a lot of banks.Slang: Vulgar. to have sex with.Informal. (usually in the negative) to act in accordance with expectations associated with (something specified).Just ignore her insults—she doesn’t do polite. do , do , doest, dost , does , doeth, doth , do , did , did , didst , did , did , done , doing .to act or conduct oneself; be in action; behave.to proceed.to get along; fare; manage.to do without an automobile.to be in health, as specified.Mother and child are doing fine.to serve or be satisfactory, as for the purpose; be enough; suffice.to finish or be finished.to happen; take place; transpire.What's doing at the office?(used as a substitute to avoid repetition of a verb or full verb expression).(used in interrogative, negative, and inverted constructions).Do you like music? I don't care. Seldom do we witness such catastrophes.Archaic. (used in imperatives with you or thou expressed; and occasionally as a metric filler in verse).Do thou hasten to the king's side. The wind did blow, the rain did fall.(used to lend emphasis to a principal verb).Informal. a burst of frenzied activity; action; commotion.Informal. a hairdo or hair styling.British Slang. a swindle; hoax.Informal. a festive social gathering; party.to forgo; dispense with.to dispense with the thing mentioned.The store doesn't have any, so you'll have to do without.Informal to kill, especially to murder.to injure gravely or exhaust; wear out; ruin.The tropical climate did them in.to cheat or swindle.He was done in by an unscrupulous broker.Informal to wrap and tie up.to pin up or arrange (the hair).to renovate; launder; clean.to wear out; tire.to fasten.to dress.The children were all done up in funny costumes.to cause the defeat, ruin, or death of.British to cook and keep house for; manage or provide for.to redecorate.to gain advantage or benefit from; make use of.I could do with more leisure time.to deal with; treat.He had always done well by his family.direct object. Also d.o.Doctor of Optometry.Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine.to perform or complete (a deed or action)to do a portraitthe work is doneto serve the needs of; be suitable for (a person, situation, etc); sufficethere isn't much food, but it'll do for the two of us(tr) to arrange or fixyou should do the garden now(tr) to prepare or provide; servethis restaurant doesn't do lunch on Sundays(tr) to make tidy, elegant, ready, etc, as by arranging or adorning(tr) to improve (esp in the phrase do something to or for)(tr) to find an answer to (a problem or puzzle) (tr) to translate or adapt the form or language ofthe book was done into a play(intr) to conduct oneself(intr) to fare or managehow are you doing these days?(tr) to cause or producecomplaints do nothing to help(tr) to give or renderyour portrait doesn't do you justicedo me a favour(tr) to work at, esp as a course of study or a professionhe is doing chemistrywhat do you do for a living?(tr) to perform (a play, etc); actthey are doing ``Hamlet'' next week(tr) to travel at a specified speed, esp as a maximum(tr) to travel or traverse (a distance)we did 15 miles on our walk(takes an infinitive without to) used as an auxiliary before the subject of an interrogative sentence as a way of forming a questiondo you agree?when did John go out?(takes an infinitive without to) used as an auxiliary to intensify positive statements and commandsI do like your new housedo hurry!(takes an infinitive without to) used as an auxiliary before a negative adverb to form negative statements or commandshe does not like cheesedo not leave me here alone!(takes an infinitive without to) used as an auxiliary in inverted constructionslittle did he realize thatonly rarely does he come in before ten o'clockused as an auxiliary to replace an earlier verb or verb phrase to avoid repetitionhe likes you as much as I doinformal (tr) to visit or explore as a sightseer or tourist(tr) to wear out; exhaust(intr) to happen (esp in the phrase nothing doing)slang (tr) to serve (a period of time) as a prison sentenceshe's doing three years for burglaryhe's doing timeinformal (tr) to cheat or swindleslang (tr) to robthey did three shops last nightslang (tr)to arrestto convict of a crimeinformal (tr) to lose or spend (money) completelyslang (tr) to treat violently; assaultslang (tr) to take or use (a drug)taboo (tr) (of a male) to have sexual intercourse with(tr) to partake in (a meal)informal to act like; imitatehe's a good mimic – he can do all his friends wellto make a final or supreme efforta conventional formula when being introducedto manage with whatever is available“Collins English Dictionary — Complete & Unabridged” 2012 Digital Edition © William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1979, 1986 © HarperCollins Publishers 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2012slang an act or instance of cheating or swindlinginformal a formal or festive gathering; partyinformal those things that should or should not be done; rules“Collins English Dictionary — Complete & Unabridged” 2012 Digital Edition © William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1979, 1986 © HarperCollins Publishers 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2012Doctor of OptometryDoctor of Osteopathy“Collins English Dictionary — Complete & Unabridged” 2012 Digital Edition © William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1979, 1986 © HarperCollins Publishers 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2012“Collins English Dictionary — Complete & Unabridged” 2012 Digital Edition © William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1979, 1986 © HarperCollins Publishers 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2012a variant spelling of doh 1“Collins English Dictionary — Complete & Unabridged” 2012 Digital Edition © William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1979, 1986 © HarperCollins Publishers 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2012“Collins English Dictionary — Complete & Unabridged” 2012 Digital Edition © William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1979, 1986 © HarperCollins Publishers 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2012Origin of do1First recorded before 900; Middle English, Old English dōn; cognate with Dutch doen, German tun; akin to Latin -dere “to put,” facere “to make, do,” Greek tithénai “to set, put,” Sanskrit dadhāti “(he) puts”Origin of do2First recorded in 1745–55; from Italian, inverted variant of ut; gamutOrigin of do1Old English dōn; related to Old Frisian duān, Old High German tuon, Latin abdere to put away, Greek tithenai to place; see deed , doomIdiomsdo time, to serve a term in prison.It's hard to get a decent job once you've done time.dos and don'ts, customs, rules, or regulations.The dos and don'ts of polite manners are easy to learn.do one's (own) thing. thing.do a number on (someone). number.have to do with. have.do one's number. number.do away with, to put an end to; abolish. to kill.do or die, to make a supreme effort.make do, to get along with what is at hand, despite its inadequacy.I can't afford a new coat so I have to make do with this one.do one proud. proud.do to death. death.do out of, to swindle; cheat.A furniture store did me out of several hundred dollars.Do, accomplish, achieve mean to bring some action to a conclusion. Do is the general word: He did a great deal of hard work. Accomplish and achieve both connote successful completion of an undertaking. Accomplish emphasizes attaining a desired goal through effort, skill, and perseverance: to accomplish what one has hoped for. Achieve emphasizes accomplishing something important, excellent, or great: to achieve a major breakthrough.Examples have not been reviewed.In ruling for the parents, the court did not say parents have right to change the lessons and books that were used at school.In 1993, animal rights group Peta occupied her office in protest over Dame Anna's decision to wear fur, something she no longer does.Jailing Hardy for 23 years, Knowles for 13-and-a-half years, and Houston for 25 years, Judge Mark Watson said: "Each of you contributed in different but important ways – you all knew what you were doing."He also claimed the clips being shared across social media do not show the incident in full adding "The video cut off" and he and his group acted like "any normal mates would do".In a statement, the PPS said the available evidence in relation to the other two people investigated is insufficient to provide a reasonable prospect of conviction so did not meet the test of prosecution.Definitions and idiom definitions from Dictionary.com Unabridged, based on the Random House Unabridged Dictionary, © Random House, Inc. 2023Idioms from The American Heritage® Idioms Dictionary copyright © 2002, 2001, 1995 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. Published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company.DNSDOABrowse#aabbccddeeffgghhiijjkkllmmnnooppqqrrsstuuvvwwxxyyzzAboutCareersContact usCookies, terms, & privacyHelpFollow usGet the Word of the Day every day!© 2025 Dictionary.com, LLC transitive verb 1 : to bring to pass : carry out it is my earnest desire to know the will of Providence … and if I can learn what it is I will do it—Abraham Lincoln 2 : put —used chiefly in do to deathhad been hounded down and done to death as heretics—Stringfellow Barr 3 4 a : bring about, effect b : to give freely : pay 5 : to bring to an end : finish —used in the past participle 6 : to put forth : exert did her best to win the race 7 a : to wear out especially by physical exertion : exhaust At the end of the race they were pretty well done. b : to attack physically : beat also : kill 8 : to bring into existence : produce do a biography on the general has done some beautiful landscapes 9 —used as a substitute verb especially to avoid repetitionIf you must make such a racket, do it somewhere else. 10 a : to play the role or character of He did Hamlet on Broadway. b : mimic also : to behave like do a Houdini and disappear c : to perform in or serve as producer of 11 : to treat unfairly especially : cheat did him out of his inheritance 12 b : to prepare for use or consumption especially : cook c : set, arrange d : to apply cosmetics to wanted to do her face before the party e : decorate, furnish did the living room in Early American 13 : to be engaged in the study or practice of especially : to work at as a vocation 14 a : to pass over : traverse b : to travel at a speed of 15 : tour doing 12 countries in 30 days 16 a : to spend (time) in prison has been doing time in a federal penitentiary b : to serve out (a period of imprisonment) did ten years for armed robbery 17 : to serve the needs of : suit, suffice worms will do us for bait 18 : to approve especially by custom, opinion, or propriety You oughtn't to say a thing like that … it's not done.—Dorothy Sayers 19 : to treat with respect to physical comforts 20 : use sense 4 21 : to have sexual intercourse with 22 : to partake of intransitive verb 1 : act, behave 2 a : get along, fare b : to carry on business or affairs : manage We can do without your help. 3 : to take place : happen what's doing across the street 4 : to come to or make an end : finish —used in the past participlehe had done with speech for that evening and gave us no reply—Arnold Bennett 5 : to be active or busy let us then be up and doing—H. W. Longfellow 6 : to be adequate or sufficient : serve 7 : to be fitting : conform to custom or propriety 8 —used as a substitute verb to avoid repetitionwanted to run and play as children do —used especially in British English following a modal auxiliary or perfective havea great many people had died, or would do—Bruce Chatwin 9 —used in the imperative after an imperative to add emphasis auxiliary verb 1 a —used with the infinitive without to to form present and past tenses in legal and parliamentary language and in poetrygive what she did crave—Shakespeare b —used with the infinitive without to to form present and past tenses in declarative sentences with inverted word orderfervently do we pray—Abraham Lincoln , in interrogative sentences , and in negative sentences 2 —used with the infinitive without to to form present and past tenses expressing emphasis Medicine is a favorite topic of television shows. If you’re a fan of Meredith Grey, Gregory House or Doogie Howser, you know all these fictional characters are MDs.But did you know there’s a type of healthcare provider called a DO? DOs aren’t typically the focus of TV shows, but they’re equally qualified to care for you and your family.“As a primary care provider, I work alongside DOs in my practice,” says family medicine specialist Neha Vyas, MD. “We see similar patients and provide the same level of care.”What’s the difference between an MD and a DO?An MD is a Doctor of Medicine, while a DO is a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine. The bottom line? They do the same job, have similar schooling, can prescribe medication and can practice all over the U.S.“In general, DOs practice a more holistic, whole-person type of care,” explains Dr. Vyas. “MDs take a more allopathic, or illness-based, approach.”Allopathic and osteopathic medicine differ in several ways:Allopathic medicine uses medication, surgery and other interventions to treat illnesses.Osteopathic medicine emphasizes the relationship between the mind, body and spirit. It focuses on treating the person as a whole and improving wellness through education and prevention. DOs also receive extra training in osteopathic manipulative medicine (OMM), a hands-on method for diagnosing and treating patients.But these philosophical differences don’t necessarily define the way DOs and MDs practice medicine. For example, DOs use all types of modern medical treatments, and MDs provide whole-person and preventive care.Becoming an MD vs. a DOThe development of the MD and DO degrees follows the history of medical education in the U.S. The first medical schools, which opened in the mid-1700s, originally offered a Bachelor of Medicine, but quickly developed the Doctor of Medicine (MD) degree.A physician named Andrew Taylor Still, MD, established the first DO training program in 1892. Dr. Still’s philosophy about medicine changed after serving in the Civil War and experiencing the deaths of three of his children from spinal meningitis. He believed traditional medicine was ineffective, so over many years, he developed the concept of osteopathic medicine.As of the end of 2022, there were 154 allopathic medical schools and 38 schools of osteopathic medicine in the U.S.Admission requirements for MD and DO schoolsAdmission requirements for MD and DO programs are similar. Both rely heavily on undergraduate grade point averages (GPA) and Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) scores.“The standards for getting into the two programs are a bit different,” notes Dr. Vyas. “MD programs typically require slightly higher average GPAs and MCAT scores than DO programs — but not by much.”MD vs. DO training programsBoth MDs and DOs follow a four-year curriculum that involves:Classroom and laboratory study during the first two years. Students learn about the human body, diseases, treatments and how to examine a patient.Clinical experience (rotations) during the third and fourth years. Students assist other healthcare providers with patient care in a wide range of specialties such as pediatrics, internal medicine and surgery.“The main difference between MD and DO programs is that DOs receive 200 hours of training in osteopathic manipulative medicine,” says Dr. Vyas. “This training is in addition to their regular classes.”What is osteopathic manipulative medicine?A key concept in osteopathic medicine is the connection between your body’s systems. An issue in one part of your body can affect other areas.Osteopathic manipulative medicine, or osteopathic manipulative treatment (OMT), involves manipulating (touching or moving) your muscles, bones and joints. Manipulations can include gentle pressure and stretching or more forceful maneuvers.These techniques can improve alignment, balance and circulation. They allow your whole body to function better and activate your body’s self-healing mechanisms.OMT can help improve musculoskeletal pain and a wide range of health conditions, like:Asthma.Constipation.Headaches and migraines.Repetitive stress injuries, such as carpal tunnel syndrome.Sinus infections.DOs use OMT to diagnose, treat and prevent disease in people of all ages.Licensing exams for MDs and DOsAfter medical school, students must pass an exam. MDs take an exam called the U.S. Medical Licensing Exam (USMLE). DOs take the Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Licensing Exam (COMLEX) and can also take the USMLE.The USMLE and COMLEX both include three levels:Level 1 checks students’ knowledge about the fundamental aspects of medicine.Level 2 sees how well students can apply medical knowledge.Level 3 measures students’ readiness to provide medical care on their own.Residency requirements for MDs and DOsAfter medical school, MDs and DOs complete a three-year residency program. “A residency is an apprenticeship in a specialty area,” Dr. Vyas explains. “The residents care for patients independently but under the supervision of other physicians.”Residency is a grueling experience that typically involves 80-hour work weeks. During this time, MDs and DOs work side by side, rotating through inpatient and outpatient settings. The first year of residency is called the internship and includes rotations in multiple specialties. Second- and third-year residents focus more on their chosen specialty.Some MDs and DOs choose to do a fellowship after their residency, which provides more in-depth subspecialty training.MDs vs. DOs in practiceBoth MDs and DOs can choose any specialty area of medicine, though DOs are more likely to select primary care specialties. The American Osteopathic Association reports that nearly 60% of DOs practice in family medicine, internal medicine and pediatrics compared with 28% of MDs.Other popular specialties for DOs include:Emergency medicine.Obstetrics and gynecology.Surgery.As of 2019, of the active medical providers in the U.S.:66% were MDs.8% were DOs.25% were international medical graduates (people who graduate from medical school outside of the country where they plan to practice).But the number of DOs is rising. In the past decade, the number of DOs and osteopathic medical students has increased by 81%.Which is better, MD or DO?MDs and DOs are equally trained and follow the most recent guidelines for disease prevention and treatment. Neither is better, but you may have a preference based on your view of medicine.And whether a healthcare provider is a good fit for you depends on many factors, including their personality, communication skills and treatment approach. By researching your options and asking questions, you can find a provider who meets all your needs. Patient care Accounting for approximately 11% of all physicians in the United States, Doctors of Osteopathic Medicine, or DOs, bring a unique, patient-centered approach to every specialty across the full spectrum of medicine. They are trained to listen and partner with their patients to help them get healthy and stay well. DOs practice in all medical specialities, including primary care, pediatrics, OBGYN, emergency medicine, psychiatry and surgery. Moreover, DOs hold some of the most prominent positions in medicine today, including overseeing care for the President of the United States, the NASA medical team, Olympic athletes and many who serve in the uniformed services. From their first days of medical school, DOs are trained to look beyond your symptoms to understand how lifestyle and environmental factors impact your well-being. They practice medicine according to the latest science and technology, but also consider options to complement pharmaceuticals and surgery. As part of their education, DOs receive special training in the musculoskeletal system, your body’s interconnected system of nerves, muscles and bones. By combining this knowledge with the latest advances in medical technology, they offer patients the most comprehensive care available today. The osteopathic philosophy of medicine sees an interrelated unity in all systems of the body, with each working with the other to heal in times of illness. Osteopathic medicine is practiced by Doctors of Osteopathic Medicine, or DOs, who bring a whole-person approach to care by focusing on looking beyond your symptoms to understand how lifestyle and environmental factors impact your wellbeing. The profession is one of the fastest growing segments in health care today, with one out of every four medical students enrolled in an osteopathic medical school. Doctors of Osteopathic Medicine, or DOs, complete four years of osteopathic medical school, with an emphasis on preventive medicine and comprehensive patient care. They are trained to recognize the interrelated unity among all systems of the body, each working with the other to promote overall health and wellness. Upon graduating from medical school, DOs complete internships, residencies and fellowships. This training lasts three to eight years and prepares them to become licensed and board-certified. Like all physicians in the U.S., Doctors of Osteopathic Medicine, or DOs, are licensed to practice medicine by licensing boards in each state. Requirements vary by state. Typically, licensure requires successful completion of a medical licensing exam administered by the state licensing board or acceptance of a certificate issued by the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners upon completion of a rigorous series of exams. The Federation of State Medical Boards provides a directory of state licensing boards that can be contacted for information regarding physician licensure. DOs earn board certification when they achieve expertise in a medical specialty or subspecialty by meeting the requirements of a specialty certifying board. Physicians in the U.S. can become board certified through the American Osteopathic Association or the American Board of Medical Specialties. The board certification process involves a combination of written, practical and simulator-based tests. No results found for that term.