

DO vs. MD

Kern Medical has both Doctors of Medicine (MDs) and Doctors of Osteopathic Medicine (DOs) on staff and in training as physicians. Both MDs and DOs complete the same residency training, licensing exams, and can diagnose, treat, prescribe and perform surgery.

Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO)	Doctor of Medicine (MD)
Includes Osteopathic Manipulative Treatment (OMT) training	No OMT training
Emphasizes preventive and holistic care	Focuses heavily on diagnosis and treatment
Fully licensed physician	Fully licensed physician
Can practice in all specialties	Can practice in all specialties
Takes COMLEX licensing exams	Takes USMLE licensing exams

What is a DO?

A Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO) is a fully licensed physician trained to diagnose and treat illness and injury. In addition to medical training, DO students learn osteopathic principles and osteopathic manipulative treatment (OMT), a hands-on technique that some DOs use in patient care. *Osteopathic medicine emphasizes:*

- Whole-person care
- Preventive medicine
- The body's ability to heal and regulate itself
- Strong physician-patient relationships
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What is an MD?

A Doctor of Medicine (MD) is also a fully licensed physician trained to diagnose and treat illness and injury. MDs use a range of approaches to care, including preventive care, medication, procedures and surgery.

Like DOs, MDs can pursue training in any medical specialty.

Can DOs and MDs practice the same types of medicine?

Yes. Both can practice in specialties such as cardiology, emergency medicine, family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, psychiatry, orthopedics and surgery.

DOs and MDs participate in the same residency match system and work side by side in hospitals and health systems across the country. Many DOs practice in primary care, including family medicine, pediatrics and internal medicine.