What does it mean to be a family medicine resident?
A Family Medicine resident has graduated from medical school and is a licensed doctor who is getting practical experience in their specialization while being supervised by board certified faculty physicians. After completion of residency training, the physician is eligible for board certification through the American Board of Family Medicine.

What does family medicine mean?
Family medicine is a primary care specialty which means that a physician can treat all areas of care at any age. This includes ob (prenatal and delivery), pediatrics (including newborns and adolescents), chronic conditions, acute illness and geriatrics (including nursing home).

How long are they a resident?
All the resident physicians training in Family Health Center's family medicine residency are with us for three years.

What is the role of the faculty physician?
Faculty physicians “precept” the resident which means they review and supervise all the patients that are seen by the residents at their rotations, at the hospital and at Family Health Center. The residents consult with the preceptor regarding the care of the patient and preceptor advises them accordingly.

Do the faculty physicians participate in the patient visit?
During the resident physician's first 6 months of training, the faculty physician participates in the patient visit. After that, they serve as a consultant to the resident.

Can a resident perform the same services as a faculty physician?
For the most part yes, because they are doctors. The only restriction is there are some medicines and referrals that also require the signature of a faculty along with the resident.

Do residents go to the hospital?
Yes. Family Health Center is aligned with SwedishAmerican Hospital, so we encourage our patients to go there if their insurance covers it. If not, and the patient has to go to another hospital, they would be followed by hospitalists during their stay and then with their resident provider for follow-up.

Are residents on insurance plans?
We can bill insurance plans, but we always bill under the faculty physician. Residents are not listed on insurance rosters.

What happens to me when the resident doctor assigned to my care leaves?
When residents leave, patients are reassigned to a new resident. At Family Health Center, we group residents and faculty according to teams. We try the best we can to keep patients in the same team - which helps provide a level of continuity of care.

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