

## Enviably Positions

*The financial picture is a cheerful one for physicians. Compensation rose in 2005 by 3.5 to 12 percent according to a survey of members of the American Medical Group Association (AMGA).*

### Median compensation analysis

For physicians in 2005 compared with 2004, and starting salaries for new physicians compared with experienced physicians.

Specialty	2005 Median	2004 Median	Percent Change	New Physicians	Experienced Physicians
Anesthesiology	\$337,654	\$315,300	7.09	\$267,500	—
Cardiology (Gen)	363,081	336,000	8.06	245,500	\$325,000
Card/Thoracic Surg	470,000	421,620	11.47	292,700	400,000
Dermatology	306,935	274,014	12.01	225,000	230,000
Diag Rad (Interv'l)	424,992	410,250	3.59	315,000	400,000
Diag Rad (NI)	400,000	364,899	9.62	297,810	327,500
Emergency Med	248,721	230,930	7.70	187,800	195,000
Endocrinology	194,243	185,000	5.00	148,000	167,070
Family Medicine	178,366	164,209	8.62	125,000	137,000
Gastroenterology	344,200	308,246	11.66	222,500	262,500
General Surgery	310,736	294,000	5.69	210,000	250,000
Gyn & Obstetrics	271,273	250,196	8.42	185,100	219,000
Hem/Onc	263,284	255,007	3.25	222,500	245,000
Hospitalist	189,677	—	—	146,790	155,000
Hypertension/Neph	229,992	214,751	7.10	175,200	192,720
Infectious Disease	194,750	185,920	4.75	150,000	169,320
Internal Medicine	183,840	169,569	8.42	130,000	140,000
Neurology	211,995	201,241	5.34	165,000	180,000
Neurological Surg	476,260	—	—	360,085	437,500
Ophthalmology Surg	281,112	264,422	6.31	180,000	225,000
Orthopaedic Surg	409,518	381,429	7.36	290,000	340,000
Otolaryngology	315,000	303,000	3.96	202,000	250,000
Pathology (an/clin)	274,792	250,000	9.92	—	—
Peds/Adol Med	182,186	169,267	7.63	120,000	130,000
Psychiatry	186,786	177,000	5.53	150,000	160,000
Pulmonary Dis	238,450	222,000	7.41	180,000	185,000
Rheumatology	204,166	188,260	8.45	159,800	—
Urgent care	194,687	176,353	10.40	—	—
Urology	349,811	324,690	7.74	240,000	270,000

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**C**OMPENSATION IS UP for physicians in every specialty, according to the American Medical Group Association's 2006 Medical Group Compensation and Financial Survey. In 2005, primary care specialties continued their compensation climbs of 2004 with average increases of 8 percent, as specialists experienced increases of 5 to 6 percent over 2004.

Over the last three years, dermatologists have garnered the largest percentage increases, earning 12 percent more in 2005 than 2004, and 38.7 percent more in 2005 than 2002. Pathologists (28.36%), non-interventional diagnostic radiologists (26.98%), gastroenterologists (26.78%), and pediatricians (26.72%) followed dermatologists for the highest increases over three years. Family physicians, internists, and pediatricians received between 19.7 and 26.7 percent increases.

Finally, the survey revealed that starting salaries for experienced physicians are somewhat higher than starting salaries for new physicians. In most specialties, experience does have its advantages.

The AMGA mailed the survey to more than 2,600 medical groups across the country and received valid responses from 218 groups, representing about 35,000 physicians.

To purchase the complete survey, go to [www.amga.org](http://www.amga.org) or contact Stefan Rozga at 703-838-0033, ext. 326 or [srozga@amga.org](mailto:srozga@amga.org). ■