

## *Description of Specialties*

### **Primary care physician**

Also: general practitioner (GP)

### **Anaesthesiology and intensive-care medicine**

Anaesthesiology: the branch of medical science that studies and applies anaesthetic drugs for the purpose of general anaesthesia to achieve a state of total unconsciousness. Intensive-care medicine: the use of state-of-the-art life-support equipment, methods and skills to monitor and manage patients with life-threatening diseases or complications.

### **Anatomy**

The science of the structure of the body describing the body regions and relative location of organs.

### **Certified physician**

Citizens of countries that are parties to the Treaty of the European Economic Area who are authorised to practice medicine.

### **Occupational medicine**

Comprises prevention and detection of diseases caused by work processes as well as measures to prevent accidents.

### **Ophthalmology and optometry**

The branch of medical science dealing with diseases/changes in the eye.

### **Blood group serology and transfusion medicine**

A medical subspecialty concerned with the supply and manufacture of blood and blood components as well as their proper clinical application.

### **Surgery**

Surgery (from the Greek meaning "hand work") is the medical specialty dealing with the treatment of diseases and injuries by operative procedures, i.e. by means of direct, manual or instrumental action on the body of the patient (operation).

### **Obstetrics and gynaecology (obs-gyn)**

Gynaecology is the branch of medicine concerned with the treatment of diseases of the female sexual and reproductive organs. Obstetrics is the medical specialty dealing with childbirth and care

of the mother.

### **Forensic medicine**

The branch of medical science that uses medical knowledge for legal purposes; comprises the application of medical and scientific knowledge to establish evidence for legal proceedings and provide expert ethical assessments.

### **Otolaryngology (ENT)**

A medical and surgical specialty concerned with the diagnosis, management and treatment of diseases and disorders of the ear, nose, throat (ENT) and related structures of the head and neck, including the sinuses, larynx (voice box), oral cavity, and upper pharynx (mouth and throat).

### **Dermatology**

The branch of medicine dealing with the diagnosis, treatment and care of patients suffering from non-infectious and infectious diseases of the skin (including STDs/sexually transmitted diseases), and from benign and malignant skin cancer.

### **Cardiac surgery**

Branch of surgery dealing with the surgical management of patients with congenital and acquired cardiovascular disorders, i.e. diseases and injuries of the heart and of the great vessels.

### **Histology and embryology**

Histology is the branch of medical science studying biological tissues, and thus a specialty drawing both on medicine and biology, especially on anatomy and pathology.

### **Hygiene and microbiology**

Hygiene (from the Greek meaning “art of health”) is the branch of medicine concerned with preventing diseases as well as maintaining and enhancing health. In a narrower sense: measures to prevent infectious diseases.

### **Immunology**

Immunology or immunobiology: the branch of medicine dealing with the body’s defence mechanisms as well as with impairments of these defence mechanisms to fight off pathogens and foreign bodies.

### **Internal medicine**

Deals with the diagnostics and non-surgical treatment of disorders affecting the internal organs.

### **Paediatric surgery**

Comprises the diagnosis, surgical and conservative therapy, as well as post-operative care, of urological disorders, malformations, organ tumors and injuries in infants, children and adolescents; includes prenatal surgery.

### **Paediatrics**

Branch of medical science that studies and treats diseases, developmental disorders and malformations in infants, children and adolescents.

### **Paediatric psychiatry**

Branch of medicine dealing with the diagnostics, therapy and prevention of psychological, psychosomatic and neurological disorders in children, adolescents and young adults.

### **Pulmonology**

A subspecialty of internal medicine, also called respiratory medicine, concerned with the diagnosis and treatment of pulmonary disorders, i.e. diseases affecting the lungs and respiratory tract.

### **Medical and chemical laboratory diagnostics**

Comprises the application and evaluation of morphological, biological, chemical, and special immunological tests and investigations of bodily fluids.

### **Medical biophysics**

Studies the physical influences on the human body, physical processes in the body, and the interactions between physical processes and the body.

### **Medical genetics**

Studies hereditary disorders (diseases inherited through genes) by means of laboratory diagnostics (investigations of chromosomes, individual genes and DNA sequences); includes risk analysis and genetic counselling of patients and their families.

### **Exercise physiology**

The study of the function of the human body during various acute and chronic exercise conditions dealing with the influence of physical activities and of lack of exercise on the physical performance of human beings of all ages.

### **Oral and maxillofacial surgery**

Surgery to correct a wide range of diseases, injuries, fractures and defects in the head, neck, face, jaws as well as the hard and soft tissues of the oral and maxillofacial region (teeth, mouth cavity etc). Comprises prevention, detection, conservative and surgical treatment, follow-up care and rehabilitation, orthodontics, prosthetic management and implantology.

## **Neurobiology**

Studies the nervous system on the systemic, cellular and molecular level (neuroanatomy), and the functions of the individual neurons and their interactions in the tissue (neurophysiology).

## **Neurosurgery**

The surgical discipline that concerns the detection and surgical treatment of diseases, injuries and defects of the central nervous system (CNS) and of the peripheral nervous systems; comprises preliminary check-ups, conservative treatment and rehabilitation.

## **Neurology and psychiatry**

Branch of medicine dealing with the diagnostics and non-surgical treatment of disorders of the nervous system, the brain, spinal cord and muscles.

## **Neuropathology**

Provides expertise and support to the physicians attending to patients in the detection of CNS (central nervous system) disorders and their causes.

## **Nuclear medicine**

The medical use of radioactive pharmaceuticals in science, diagnostics and therapy.

## **Orthopaedics and orthopaedic surgery**

Branch of medicine that deals with the prevention and correction of injuries and disorders of the skeletal system and associated muscles, joints and ligaments.

## **Pathology**

Branch of medical science concerned with the abnormal and pathological processes and conditions in living beings, and their causes. In short, pathology is the study of diseases.

## **Pathophysiology**

Studies the pathological processes and impaired functions in the human body.

## **Pharmacology and toxicology**

Pharmacology studies the interactions between medicinal products (pharmaceuticals) and the human body; toxicology studies the harmful (toxic) effects of chemical substances on the human body.

## **Physical medicine and general rehabilitation**

Branch of medicine that aims to enhance and restore functional ability and quality of life to those with physical impairments or disabilities. Comprises secondary prevention, detection and pertinent diagnostics, treatment and rehabilitation regimes using the methods of physical therapy (physiotherapy), manual therapy and natural therapies.

### **Physiology**

Branch of medicine studying the normal life processes, especially the physical functions of the human body.

### **Plastic, aesthetic and reconstructive surgery**

Surgical interventions performed for functional or aesthetic/cosmetic reasons on the body surface to reconstruct cutaneous or underlying tissues or to improve and correct a structural defect or normal evidence of aging.

### **Psychiatry and neurology**

Psychiatry (from the Greek meaning “soul healing”) is the medical specialty concerned with the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of mental disorders. Mental disorders are diseases whose signs and symptoms manifest themselves psychologically (perception, thinking, memory, affect, drive, behaviour).

### **Psychiatry and psychotherapeutic medicine**

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### **Radiology**

Branch of medicine dealing with the use of radiation for diagnostic, therapeutic and scientific purposes.

### **Social medicine**

Branch of medicine dealing with health impairments due to physiological, psychosocial and economic factors, and their medical care including prevention, therapy and rehabilitation.

### **Specific prophylaxis and tropical medicine**

Specific prophylaxis is the branch of medicine dealing with the prevention of diseases by e.g. vaccinations; tropical medicine is the medical subspecialty concerned with tropical diseases and diseases affecting international travellers.

### **Radiation therapy and radio-oncology**

Comprises the treatment and follow-up care of diseases amenable to therapy with ionising radiation, and the use of the pertinent technical equipment including state-of-the-art radiation protection.

**Thoracic surgery**

Surgery of diseases of the chest cavity (thorax = chest).

**Tumor biology**

The study of the biological features of cancer dealing with the origin and behaviour of tumors. Investigates the processes involved in the development of and defence to tumors.

**Accident surgery**

The surgical interventions to repair and reconstruct organs damaged in accidents, and to manage injuries mostly to the musculoskeletal system (bones, muscles, ligaments and tendons), but also to the internal organs of the chest and abdomen, and to the brain and spinal cord.

**Urology**

The branch of medicine that focuses on the urinary tracts of males and females, and on the reproductive system of males. Urology is thus concerned with the following organs: kidneys, urinary bladder, ureter and urethra; and the prostate, testicles, spermatic duct and penis in males.

**Virology**

Branch of medical science that studies viruses (pathogens) and viral diseases.