WHY INTERNAL MEDICINE DOCTORS GET SUED

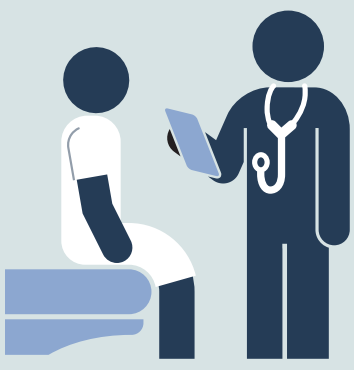
An analysis by **The Doctors Company** of 1,180 claims against internal medicine physicians that closed from 2007 to 2014

3 MOST COMMON PATIENT ALLEGATIONS

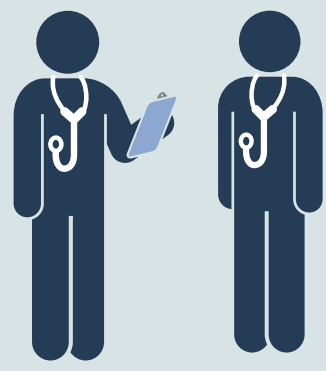
The top three allegation categories accounted for **90%** of all allegations.

- **39%** Diagnosis related (failure, delay, wrong)
- **32%** Medical treatment
- **19%** Medication-related error

FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO PATIENT INJURY



Expert physician reviewers analyzed the claims to identify the specific factors that contributed to patient injury.



TOP 3 TIPS TO LESSEN RISKS

1. Engage the patient in order to obtain an accurate history when developing a differential diagnosis. Patient complaints are the first opportunity to gather information.

2. Thoroughly evaluate all age groups of patients with atypical chest pain. Twenty-two percent of the patients in this study who had MI or cardiac arrest were in their 40s and presented with atypical chest pain.
3. Pay close attention to calls and concerns from postoperative patients. Community-acquired and nosocomial infections can be difficult to diagnose.

To read the full study, examples of claims, and additional strategies and resources to reduce risks, visit **www.thedoctors.com/internalmedicinestudy**.

Source: The Doctors Company