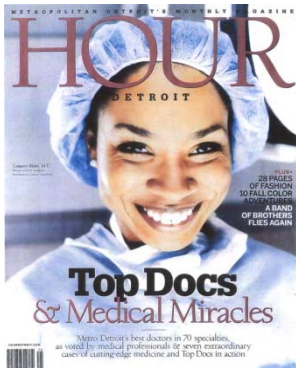


How Top Docs Are Selected

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Each summer, we undertake a mammoth project to help you choose the right doctors and hospitals in dozens of specialties. We started work on our fifth annual Top Docs survey in July when we asked the State of Michigan's Bureau of Health Professions for a randomly generated list of 2,500 doctors and 2,500 nurses in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb and Washtenaw counties. Each was mailed a survey that listed dozens of specialties and these instructions: "Please fill out the following as if you were referring a loved one for medical care."

To ensure a wide geographic sample, we also reached out to the 10 largest health-care systems in metro Detroit and provided each with 100 surveys for doctors and nurses who requested them. (We gave the health-care systems explicit instructions *not* to advocate for their doctors. By all indications, they followed our orders; we saw no evidence of ballot stuffing.)

Before long, piles of the survey's color-coded return envelopes were flooding our offices, and staff members (led by Associate Editor Aleene Jinn Hang) began the arduous task of tabulating the responses. The final list, which was expanded this year to include emergency medicine, anesthesiology and radiology, includes many perennial winners but a number of new faces as well. Certainly, this list does not reflect all of the best doctors in metro Detroit. But it includes many of our brightest and best, people with whom we're convinced you'll be in good hands.

