

New Hampshire Physician Survey on Healthcare Reform

In order for physicians to provide leadership in improving our healthcare system, it is important that we understand our collective beliefs and opinions about the system and our values regarding directions for change. **Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements:**

U.S. Compared to Other Countries	Strongly Disagree	Disagree Somewhat	Agree Somewhat	Strongly Agree	Don't Know
1. By most measures, the quality of US healthcare is better than that of most other industrialized nations.					
2. The per capita cost of healthcare in the United States is about the same as that in other industrialized nations.					
3. People in the United States generally have better access to routine healthcare than people in most other industrialized nations.					

Satisfaction with Your Practice	Strongly Disagree	Disagree Somewhat	Agree Somewhat	Strongly Agree	Don't Know
4. Putting aside paperwork and administrative issues, I find the practice of medicine deeply satisfying.					
5. Paperwork and administrative issues interfere with my ability to serve patients well.					
6. The financial reimbursement that I receive for the services I provide to patients is fair <u>when compared to other physicians.</u>					
7. The financial reimbursement that I receive for the services I provide to patients is fair <u>when compared to other professionals outside of healthcare.</u>					

Health Determinants and Context of Care	Strongly Disagree	Disagree Somewhat	Agree Somewhat	Strongly Agree	Don't Know
8. Biogenetic heritage and physical factors in the environment (infectious, traumatic etc) are the major determinants of health in the United States.					
9. Psychosocial and socioeconomic factors are important contributors to health status in the United States.					
10. Health outcomes are improved when patients receive coordinated care of chronic illness in a primary care medical home.					
11. The health of individuals can be enormously affected by their personal behaviors and choices.					
12. Chronic illnesses are best managed primarily by specialists who see large volumes of the same condition and therefore have specialized skill and expertise.					

Responsibility for Healthcare in the Ideal System	Strongly Disagree	Disagree Somewhat	Agree Somewhat	Strongly Agree	Don't Know
13. In the ideal healthcare system, individuals would be responsible for purchasing health insurance that meets their personal and family needs.					

14. In the ideal healthcare system, basic healthcare would be available to all individuals as part of the social contract, a right similar to basic education, police and fire protection.					
15. In the ideal healthcare system, employers would be responsible for providing health insurance for their employees.					

Insurance, Payment and Cost Issues	Strongly Disagree	Disagree Somewhat	Agree Somewhat	Strongly Agree	Don't Know
16. Insurance companies provide important services that add value to the healthcare system.					
17. The government should pay for healthcare only when disability, misfortune or other obstacles make it impossible for individuals to provide insurance for themselves.					
18. Universal access to healthcare is best achieved by making private insurance more affordable through mechanisms such as tax credits, expanding eligibility for public programs and/or other incremental changes.					
19. I would favor a simplified payor system in which public funds, collected through taxes, were used to pay directly for services to meet the basic healthcare needs of all citizens.					
20. Denial of insurance to those with pre-existing conditions is an appropriate means of controlling costs.					
21. There should be greater equity in reimbursement of different medical/surgical specialties for equal time spent in providing care to patients.					
22. If public funding of basic healthcare were provided through a simplified payor system, individuals should have the option to purchase additional insurance and health services.					
23. Competition and profit within the insurance industry drives innovation, quality and/or efficiency in healthcare and must be preserved in the US healthcare system.					
24. Procedures (surgery, high tech interventions/studies etc) require more skill, training and/or engender greater liability than evaluation and management of patients; reimbursement should reflect this.					
25. Denying or limiting access to needed and effective medical care (in non-futile situations) in order to preserve profitability is unethical.					
26. The free market is the best way to create a high quality, equitable, affordable and accessible healthcare system in the United States.					
27. The US healthcare system would benefit from planning of services and infrastructure to match demonstrated need.					
28. I would be willing to accept somewhat lower income as a physician in order for all people to access quality healthcare through a simplified, planned healthcare system.					
29. Control of healthcare costs ultimately must include some limits on availability of services on demand.					
30. Our society should decide through a democratic process what services should be provided as part of basic healthcare and what services denied.					
<i>Please add any comments regarding general issues of healthcare that you feel are important:</i>					

About you:

What is your age?

- Under 30 30 to 45 46 to 64 65 and older

Are you

- Female Male

Which of the following best describes the area in which you spend the majority of your practice time? (Please select only one choice)

- Primary care. *Please specify:* Family practice Internal Medicine Pediatrics
- Internal Medicine specialty: _____
- Pediatric specialty: _____
- General surgery
- Surgical Specialty: _____
- Psychiatry
- OBGYN
- Radiology
- Anesthesiology
- Emergency medicine
- Other (*Specify*) _____

Approximately what percentage of your time is spent in the following areas?

- ___ Clinical practice
 - ___ Administrative role
 - ___ Teaching
 - ___ Policy and advocacy work
 - ___ Research
 - ___ Other, please specify _____
- 100%

Employment status

- Working Retired

- Self employed or employed by group in which you have ownership
- Salaried by entity in which you have no significant ownership (eg hospital, clinic or health center employee, except VA or DHMC)
- Dartmouth Hitchcock employee
- U.S. Veterans Administration employee
- Other _____

How many physicians are in your practice?

- Solo practice 2 to 4 5 to 10 11 to 20 21 to 50 >50 physicians

New Hampshire Medical Society, Sept 2007. Results to be presented October 27th at the NHMS Annual Scientific Meeting and posted www.nhms.org

Return survey: survey@nhms.org or fax to 226-2432 or mail to NHMS, 7 North State St, Concord, NH 03301