

WHAT EPS REALLY THINK ABOUT HEALTH CARE REFORM

385 readers answered EPM's health care reform survey. Here's what you said:

Overtreatment in the ED? You better believe it.

Given that in a typical shift of eight hours you see an average of two patients per hour (16 patients/shift), could you have eliminated any of the following tests and/or treatments without compromising the quality of care? If so, how many of each?

	None	1	2	3	4	More
Plain Film X-Rays	23%	20%	23%	15%	10%	9%
CT Scans	30%	32%	23%	6%	5%	5%
Lab Tests	17%	8%	19%	14%	15%	27%
Medication Orders	42%	14%	18%	10%	7%	10%
Other	45%	13%	17%	6%	6%	13%

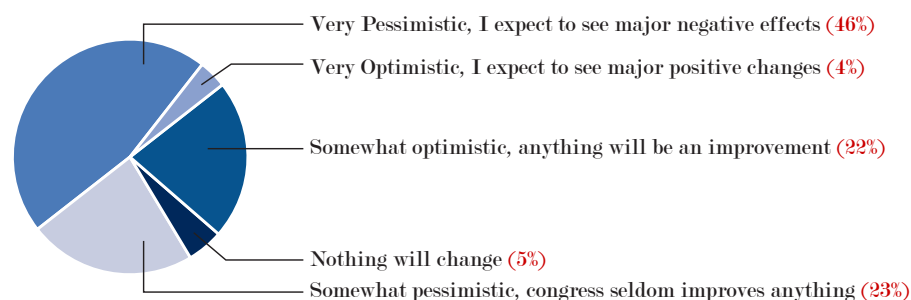
How much could we save? Try billions.

If you chose to eliminate the actions above, what would you estimate the value of the changes to be?



EPs Express Broad Pessimism

Given that some type of health care reform is likely to be passed, what is your general feeling about its impact on the nation as a whole?



EPS RESPOND

Readers suggest their own health care reform ideas

Have a nominal copayment for all services regardless of income level (i.e. \$5/visit). ♦ **Specialized malpractice courts without juries but with trained physicians.** ♦ Standardized payments for malpractice that our disease based. ♦ **Determine the direct impact of EMTALA** an each physician and give a tax rebate proportional to the amount of "indentured servitude." ♦ **Free market. Public posting of prices.** ♦ Tort immunity if physician complied with government standards of care. ♦ **Pay the lowest price for proven effective modalities. Let folks purchase with private \$ above that.** ♦ **No dialysis after age 80-85.** ♦ Make nursing homes pay for patients care that are transferred to ED for treatments that are not covered by Medicare. ♦ **There must be an allowable 'miss rate' to halt the temptation for excessive test ordering.** ♦ **No public funds to pay for elective abortion.** ♦ Promote medical savings accounts. ♦ **A single payer system is the only way to control the outrageous steady increase in utilization and cost.** ♦ **Cap salaries of CEO's and top management of all health insurance companies.**

EPs split 60/40

against the 'public option', but those who oppose it feel their opposition is 'non-negotiable' by a 3:1 margin.

Over 90% of EPs favor the creation of physician boards to determine standards of care the provide immunity from litigation

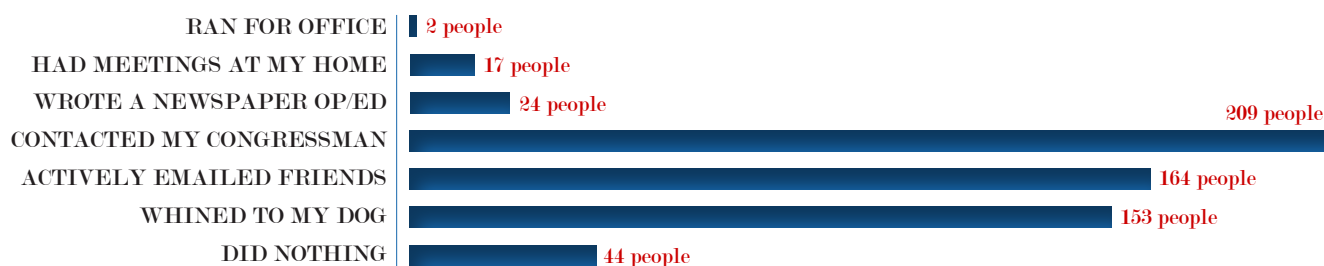
Almost 15% of EPs would like to see top paid specialist make less

Over half of EPs think they could eliminate one or more tests/X-rays/scans, orders without lowering quality of care

84% of EPs say that caps on non-economic malpractice damages are a non-negotiable part of health reform

75% of EPs oppose or strongly oppose the creation of a powerful central board that can control medicine payments, rationing, etc...

What have you done to impact health care reform?



How would you vote?

Assume that you are a legislator voting on health care reform. Your goal is to reduce the cost of health care while maintaining quality. How would you vote on the following proposed amendments?

	Yes and it is non-negotiable	Yes but it is negotiable	No but it is negotiable	No and it is non-negotiable
Creation of a physicians board to determine standards of care with immunity from litigation	56% (210)	36% (135)	4% (16)	4% (16)
Increasing criminal enforcement of Medicare/Medicaid fraud	40% (150)	37% (139)	21% (78)	3% (11)
Caps on non-economic malpractice damages	83% (316)	15% (56)	2% (8)	0% (0)
Reduction of payments to top paid medical specialists	15% (57)	43% (164)	34% (130)	8% (30)
Mandate electronic medical records, centralized credentialing, etc...	15% (57)	48% (182)	30% (112)	7% (27)
Creation of a government run, tax payor subsidized option for health insurance that will compete with private insurance carriers	14% (53)	27% (104)	24% (91)	35% (132)
Creating a powerful central board that can control medicine payments, rationing, etc (such as the Medical Advisory Council proposed by the Kennedy/Dodd bill)	6% (22)	20% (74)	26% (99)	48% (183)
Empowering family physicians to control referrals, tests, treatments with incentives to lower costs (medical home concept)	11% (41)	52% (197)	25% (94)	13% (48)