

**NATIONAL SURVEY OF
PHYSICIANS REGARDING MEDICAL ISSUES
OCTOBER 6-NOVEMBER 2, 2006**

Hello, my name is _____ with Western Wats, a public opinion research company. We're talking with physicians today for just a few minutes about some medical issues facing Congress. All responses are completely confidential, and the interview should take no more than seven minutes.

A. Would this be a convenient time to speak with Dr. _____, or should I make an appointment to call back?

RESPONDENT AVAILABLE 1
 APPOINTMENT TIME (SPECIFY)..... 2
 CALL BACK/NO APPOINTMENT..... 3

1. Does your practice care for patients covered by (ROTATE: Medicare fee-for-service, Medicare Advantage), both, or neither one?

	<i>ALL</i>	<i>AMA</i>	<i>NON</i>
MEDICARE F-F-S	32%	27%	35%
MEDICARE ADVANTAGE	4%	4%	4%
BOTH.....	64%	69%	61%

First, I would like to ask you a few questions about medical liability.

2. Do you think the medical liability system in the courts is (ROTATE FRONT TO BACK, BACK TO FRONT: very fair, somewhat fair, somewhat unfair, or very unfair)?

	<i>ALL</i>	<i>AMA</i>	<i>NON</i>
VERY FAIR.....	5%	5%	5%
SOMEWHAT FAIR.....	17%	13%	20%
SOMEWHAT UNFAIR	35%	36%	34%
VERY UNFAIR	40%	44%	38%
DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION	3%	3%	3%

Note: Percentages may not equal 100 percent due to rounding.
 Results for ALL are based on 400 physicians (Margin of Error ±4.9 percent); results for AMA based on 160 physicians who are self-identified members of the AMA (MoE ±7.75 percent); results for NON based on 239 physicians who are not members of the AMA (MoE ±6.34 percent).

3. Overall, do you think the medical liability system has (ROTATE: raised the cost of medical care, lowered the cost of medical care), or has it had no effect on the cost of medical care?

(IF RAISED/LOWERED COST, ASK:) Would that be substantially (raised/lowered) costs or somewhat (raised/lowered) costs?

	<i>ALL</i>	<i>AMA</i>	<i>NON</i>
SUBSTANTIALLY RAISED COST	79%	78%	80%
SOMEWHAT RAISED COST	15%	16%	15%
SOMEWHAT LOWERED COST	1%	1%	0%
SUBSTANTIALLY LOWERED COST	1%	2%	0%
NO EFFECT ON COST	4%	3%	4%
DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION	1%	0%	1%

4. Which of the following comes closest to your view about Congress and the medical liability system:

- a. The medical liability system is working well, and Congress does not need to take further action on it.
- b. The medical liability system needs to be fixed, but it is primarily a state issue, and Congress does not need to take further action on it.
- c. The medical liability system needs to be fixed, and Congress needs to take action on it.

	<i>ALL</i>	<i>AMA</i>	<i>NON</i>
WORKING WELL	2%	3%	0%
NEEDS TO BE FIXED/STATE ISSUE	13%	8%	16%
NEEDS TO BE FIXED/CONGRESS NEEDS TO ACT ..	85%	89%	82%
DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION	1%	0%	2%

Now I would like to ask you some questions about Medicare.

5. Have you seen or heard anything about a scheduled five-point-one percent cut to payments that physicians receive for treating Medicare patients?

	<i>ALL</i>	<i>AMA</i>	<i>NON</i>
YES	86%	89%	84%
NO	12%	11%	13%
DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION	2%	0%	3%

6. As you may know, this cut in payments has been scheduled to take place for several years, but has been postponed during budget negotiations in past years. Do you approve or disapprove of this scheduled cut in payments to physicians to reduce overall cost of the Medicare program?

	<i>ALL</i>	<i>AMA</i>	<i>NON</i>
APPROVE	2%	3%	1%
DISAPPROVE	97%	96%	98%
DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION	1%	1%	1%

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7. As you may know, federal budget rules require that any new spending proposals be offset by either spending reductions in other parts of the budget or by tax increases. If it decides to stop the scheduled cut in physicians' Medicare reimbursements, what do you think Congress should do to offset this amount of money? (DO NOT READ RESPONSES)

	<i>ALL</i>	<i>AMA</i>	<i>NON</i>
CUT MEDICARE ADVANTAGE/PAYMENTS TO HEALTH PLANS	1%	1%	1%
CUT OTHER PARTS OF MEDICARE.....	6%	7%	6%
CUT PORK-BARREL SPENDING	6%	5%	7%
CUT SPENDING ON IRAQ.....	11%	8%	13%
CUT ANOTHER PART OF OVERALL BUDGET.....	18%	20%	16%
INCREASE OVERALL TAXES	19%	22%	17%
INCREASE FICA/PAYROLL TAXES.....	2%	1%	3%
ALLOW DEFICIT TO INCREASE.....	1%	1%	0%
OTHER (SPECIFY).....	30%	25%	33%
DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION.....	7%	10%	5%

Note: Results are based on 389 physicians who disapprove of the scheduled cut in payments to physicians (response 2 in question 6), including 154 AMA-member physicians and 234 non-member physicians (and one physician that chose not to answer the AMA membership question).

8. Which of the following actions would you prefer Congress take to avoid the scheduled cut in physicians' Medicare reimbursements: (ROTATE: making cuts to the Medicare Advantage program, making cuts to programs other than Medicare, or increasing taxes)?

	<i>ALL</i>	<i>AMA</i>	<i>NON</i>
MAKING CUTS TO MEDICARE ADVANTAGE.....	7%	5%	8%
MAKING CUTS OTHER PROGRAMS.....	66%	68%	65%
INCREASING TAXES.....	18%	19%	18%
CUT PHYSICIAN REIMBURSEMENTS (VOL.).....	0%	0%	0%
DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION.....	9%	8%	9%

Note: Results are based on 389 physicians who disapprove of the scheduled cut in payments to physicians (response 2 in question 6), including 154 AMA-member physicians and 234 non-member physicians (and one physician that chose not to answer the AMA membership question).

9. If Congress makes cuts to the Medicare Advantage program, (ROTATE: do you think that will have a negative effect on seniors enrolled in a Medicare Advantage plan, or do you think that will have no real effect on seniors enrolled in a Medicare Advantage plan)?

	<i>ALL</i>	<i>AMA</i>	<i>NON</i>
NEGATIVE EFFECT.....	74%	75%	73%
NO REAL EFFECT.....	16%	16%	16%
DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION.....	11%	9%	11%

10. Overall, do you believe that the Medicare Part D program has or has not helped seniors?

	<i>ALL</i>	<i>AMA</i>	<i>NON</i>
HAS.....	58%	61%	55%
HAS NOT.....	31%	28%	33%
DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION.....	11%	11%	12%

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Demographic Questions

Now I have a few questions just for statistical purposes.

11. Are you a member of the American Medical Association?

	<i>ALL</i>
YES	40%
NO	60%
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED	0%

12. Which of the following consumes the majority of your professional time: working in private practice, being employed by a hospital, or being employed by a health care plan?

	<i>ALL</i>	<i>AMA</i>	<i>NON</i>
PRIVATE PRACTICE	89%	89%	89%
EMPLOYED BY HOSPITAL	8%	9%	7%
EMPLOYED BY HEALTH CARE PLAN	1%	2%	1%
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED	3%	1%	4%

13. How long have you practiced medicine?

	<i>ALL</i>	<i>AMA</i>	<i>NON</i>
5 YEARS OR LESS	6%	8%	5%
6 TO 10 YEARS	10%	10%	11%
11 TO 20 YEARS	30%	32%	29%
21 TO 30 YEARS	34%	31%	35%
31 YEARS OR MORE	20%	20%	21%
REFUSED	1%	0%	1%

14. Would you please stop me when I read the correct category for your age?

	<i>ALL</i>	<i>AMA</i>	<i>NON</i>
UNDER 30	1%	1%	1%
31 TO 49	35%	41%	30%
50 TO 64	47%	42%	51%
65 OR OLDER	17%	17%	17%
REFUSED	1%	0%	1%

15. Gender (from observation):

	<i>ALL</i>	<i>AMA</i>	<i>NON</i>
MALE	84%	86%	82%
FEMALE	17%	14%	18%

That's all the questions I have. Thank you very much for sharing your opinions with us.

16. WRITE IN STATE FIPS CODE: _____

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17. Primary Care/Specialist (from sample):

	<i>ALL</i>	<i>AMA</i>	<i>NON</i>
PRIMARY CARE/GENERALISTS	43%	41%	44%
SPECIALIST	57%	59%	56%

18. SPECIALTY (from sample): _____

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