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Web Survey of California Medical Association Members
March 6 - 20, 2009
n=389; Overall MoE=± 5.0%
EMC #09-3994

1.	How many years have you been practicing medicine?	
	Less than 5 years	4
	5-10 years	9
	11-15 years	10
	16-20 years	10
	21-30 years	33
	More than 30 years	34
2.	What is your specialty? (UNPROMPTED; MULTIPLE RESPONSES ACCEPTED)	
	Primary medicine/family care	15
	Pediatrics	11
	Internal medicine	10
	Emergency medicine/critical care	9
	Orthopaedic/hand surgeon	7
	OB/GYN/Obstetrics/Gynecology	7
	Psychiatry	4
	Ophthalmology	4
	Surgery/Surgeon (non-specific)	4
	Dermatology	4
	Neurology	3
	Radiology	3
	Anesthesiology	2
	Urology	2
	Other	22
3.	Are you a member of the California Medical Association?	
	Yes	95
	No	5

4. Thinking about the challenges of being a doctor, which one or two of the following do you think are the most challenging aspects of being a doctor? **(Choose up to 2)**

RANDOMIZE 1-7 of list; 8 and 9 always displayed last

Malpractice rates and the threat of lawsuits	30
HMOs	29
Long hours	25
Patient care	18
Medicare	17
Medi-Cal	16
CME and other requirements	3
Other	38
(Getting paid/reimbursement)	13
(Insurance companies)	10
(Paperwork/administrative burden)	5
(Higher overhead/expenses for same pay)	2
(Prior Authorization)	2
(PPOs)	2
(Other)	3
Don't Know/Not Sure	1

5. Thinking about the benefits of being a doctor, which one or two of the following do you find the most rewarding or satisfying aspects of being a doctor? **(Choose up to 2)**

RANDOMIZE 1-5 of list; 6 and 7 always displayed last

Helping patients	84
Intellectual challenge	46
Having a respected profession	24
Being your own boss	21
Earning a good living	9
Other (specify)	3
Don't Know/Not Sure	0

6. Overall, how has the quality of patient care changed since you first started practicing medicine?

Improved a great deal	25
Improved just some	20
Stayed about the same	13
Gotten a little worse	19
Gotten much worse	21
Don't Know	2

7. Thinking about the health care system as a whole, which of the following do you think best describes the state of the health care system in California today:

It is in crisis	51
It is in serious trouble but not in crisis	40

It is in some trouble	6
It is not really in trouble at all	1
Don't Know	1

Listed below are some concerns that doctors have raised about practicing medicine these days. For each one, please indicate whether it is a major problem, minor problem, or not a problem at all.

SCALE:	Major problem	Minor problem	Not a problem at all	Don't know
(RANDOMIZE Q8-Q11)				
8.	The limits and restrictions that insurance companies place on doctors			
	87	10	2	1
9.	Doctors have less time with patients			
	72	23	5	0
10.	The threat of malpractice lawsuits			
	47	48	5	1
11.	Doctors have more administrative responsibilities			
	62	33	4	1
(END RANDOMIZE)				
12.	What effect do insurance company requirements have on how you treat your patients?			
	Very positive effect		0	
	Somewhat positive effect		1	
	No effect at all		10	
	Somewhat negative effect		41	
	Very negative effect		46	
	Don't Know		2	
13.	When it comes to how you treat your patients, how significant a factor are insurance company policies in your choice of treatments?			
	Very significant		33	
	Somewhat significant		38	
	Not very significant		17	
	Not at all significant		9	
	Don't know		2	

Please answer Yes or No to each of the following questions.

SCALE:	Yes	No	Don't know
(RANDOMIZE Q14-Q17)			
14. Have you ever felt pressured to change the way you treat a patient because of a restriction from an insurance company?	84	14	2
15. Have you ever felt pressured to change a prescription medication because of a restriction from an insurance company?	89	8	2
16. Do you think health insurance policies cause doctors to choose a course of treatment they might not otherwise choose?	86	11	3
17. Have you ever had an insurance carrier restrict your ability to refer patients to a physician you believed would best handle a patient's medical needs?	78	19	4
(END RANDOMIZE)			

For each of the following statements, please indicate whether you agree or disagree.

SCALE:	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
(RANDOMIZE Q18-Q31)					
18. I am concerned that I might be cut out of an insurance company's network if I do not follow the policies requested by the insurance company.	26	29	18	10	17
19. I sometimes feel pressured to prescribe a course of treatment based on cost rather than on what is best for the patient.	44	39	11	4	3
20. Financial incentives for physicians from insurance companies are of more benefit to the insurance companies themselves than to the health of patients.	69	18	4	2	8
21. Insurance companies too often deny treatments for patients.	43	38	11	3	5
22. Insurance companies too often delay treatments for patients.	47	36	9	2	6

SCALE:	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
23. There are not enough physicians in insurance company provider networks to whom I can refer patients.	25	33	19	6	17
24. Insurance companies too often underpay for out-of-network care.	71	16	2	2	9
25. Insurance companies put onerous terms in their contracts with physicians.	63	24	2	2	9
26. It's okay for insurance companies and managed care plans to encourage physicians to use a different medicine than the one originally prescribed for the patient.	6	34	26	33	2
27. It's okay for a pharmacist to substitute a different medicine (not the generic version of the medicine) than the medicine prescribed by the physician when the prescribed medicine is not covered by the patient's insurance.	5	10	13	70	2
28. It's okay for insurance companies and managed care plans to contact patients requesting them to discuss with their doctors switching to a different medicine than the one originally prescribed.	5	19	23	50	2
29. Insurance company requirements sometimes hurt my ability to spend enough time with my patients.	43	33	12	6	6
30. Insurance companies are increasing the costs patients have to pay, through higher co-pays and other out of pocket costs.	79	14	1	2	4
31. Some patients are not seeking care due to increasing costs, from higher co-pays and other out of pocket costs.	70	24	1	1	4

END

NOTE: This survey did not include physicians who work for Permanente medical groups, which operate under a coordinated model with Kaiser Permanente, a non-profit health plan.