

Survey: Fees, reimbursement top physician worries

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(HealthDay)—The results of a new survey show that physicians are concerned about declining reimbursements and increasing administrative hassles, including negotiating with payers, obtaining prior authorizations, and cutting through government red tape, according to an article published Nov. 25 in *Medical Economics*.

Medical Economics conducted its 85th annual Exclusive Continuing Study, including the 2013 Exclusive Physician Earnings Survey subpart, which collects responses from physicians (4,934 responding) about their professional life. Participants were mostly male (66 percent), nationally representative, and half had an ownership interest in their practice, with 30 percent in solo practice. The vast majority of respondents had been practicing for more than 10 years (84 percent).

The survey results showed that the majority of respondents feared the impact of declining reimbursements and that their professional frustrations were mostly tied to hassles associated with payers, prior authorizations, and government red tape. Specifically, 68 percent were concerned about fees and reimbursement; 56 percent about the burden of paperwork; 54 percent about [health care reform](#); 43 percent about third-party interference; 39 percent about malpractice; 29 percent about physician shortages; 28 percent about [electronic health records](#); and 17 percent about accountable care organizations.

"Nearly 45 percent of internists responding to this [survey](#) said that if they could go back in time, they would change either their specialty or their career," according to the *Medical Economics* article.

More information: [More Information](#)

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