



This Week in **Physician-Led Care**: *Clips from News Sources*  
Week Ending June 26, 2020

**Forbes:** (6/26): The United States' physician shortage could reach up to 139,000 doctors by 2033 with shortfalls specifically in primary care.

**AJMC:** (6/26) – A recent study found that primary care physicians stand to lose nearly \$15 billion from revenue declines due to patient visits, with the average full-time primary care physician losing more than \$67,000 in revenue. This final study will be published in the September Issue of [Health Affairs](#).

**Modern Healthcare:** (6/24) – Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina has announced that it will make lump sum payments to participating primary care practices in 2020 and 2021 to help them weather the COVID-19 pandemic and help them move into value-based payment arrangements.

**Healthcare Finance:** (6/24) – The Los Angeles Practice Transformation Network, a value-based program which was awarded a \$16 million grant to implement CMS's Transforming Clinical Practice Initiative five years ago, has helped its clinicians produce tens of millions of dollars in cost savings and meet numerous quality-improvement targets for Medi-Cal patients.

**Patient Engagement HIT:** (6/24) – As racial disparities are coming to light during COVID-19, CMS has called for an increase in value-based care which would help address health disparities by allowing providers to focus on controlling chronic illness and keeping patients healthy.

**Modern Healthcare:** (6/23) – According to a survey by the American Medical Association, nearly 1 in 4 physicians say that prior authorization has led to a serious adverse event for one of their patients, highlighting the need to move to value-based payment to significantly reduce prior authorization requirements for providers.

**Modern Healthcare:** (6/23) – CMS has announced the creation of the Office of Burden Reduction and Health Informatics in an effort to reduce providers' administrative workloads, reduce unnecessary burden, increase efficiencies, increase the use of health informatics, and improve the beneficiary experience.

**The Nevada Independent:** (6/23) – A new survey from the AMA showing that a majority of Nevada doctors believe they can only keep their practices open for another two to six months unless patient volume increases, which would shrink a physician workforce that is already small.

**Revcycle Intelligence:** (6/22) – Value-based payments have helped physicians during the COVID-19 pandemic, with some predicting that more practices are going to want to switch to value-based payments for the added stability and to have the resources necessary like

telehealth, data analytics, and other capabilities providers need to effectively respond to crises like COVID-19.

**Modern Healthcare:** (6/22) – CMS released Medicare claims data showing that older, lower income, minority beneficiaries, and those with chronic conditions are at higher risk for COVID-19. Administrator Verma commented that the data highlights the need to focus on value-based care as the fee-for-service system is consistently insufficient for the most vulnerable Americans.

**Crain's New York:** (6/22) – While giant New York hospitals have received millions of dollars in COVID-19 relief, independent medical practices have only received at most 2% of their annual revenues in federal assistance and need HHS to provide financial relief to independent practices.

**Hospice News:** (6/19) – CMMI has announced the extension of the deadline for Direct Contracting Letters of Intent until July 6 for providers that want to participate in the professional or global Primary Care First Direct Contracting model.

**Medical Economics:** (6/19) – According to a new study comparing 2019 patient volume and revenue data with 2020 data, adult primary care patient volumes dropped 60 percent and revenue dropped 47 percent in March, while patient volumes dropped 68 percent and revenues dropped 54 percent in April. Preventive care volumes also dropped 53 percent in March and 74 percent in April.

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