



**This Week in Physician-Led Care: Clips from News Sources**  
**Week Ending July 31, 2020**

**PEW Trusts:** (7/31) – As patient visits declined by over 70% during the pandemic for independent primary care physicians, many are worried about their ability to stay independent, their financial viability, and their safety as many are forced to use homemade PPE.

**Fierce Healthcare:** (7/30) – Fewer than 10% of primary care practices have stabilized operations amid the COVID-19 pandemic according to this week’s Larry A. Green Center and PCC survey. 9 in 10 primary care practices continue to face significant difficulties during COVID-19, including obtaining medical supplies, meeting the increasing health needs of their patients, and finding sufficient resources to remain operational.

**Forbes:** (7/30) – COVID-19 has shown the vital role that primary care clinicians play in keeping America healthy, especially for patients with chronic conditions. This article urges business owners, CEOs, or care providers to ensure that patients have access to primary care.

**Becker’s Hospital Review:** (7/28) – 35% of Americans have visited primary care physicians since April, according to a recent survey, down 26 percentage points compared to the same survey conducted in December. The survey also found that 61% of respondents said they felt very or extremely comfortable visiting their primary care physician during the pandemic.

**Revcycle Intelligence:** (7/28) – The Value in Health Care Act, a bipartisan bill introduced by Rep. Delbene (D-WA), Rep. Welch (D-VT), and Rep. LaHood (R-IL), aims to increase alternative payment model participation by extending incentives and correcting arbitrary qualification standards under MACRA and MSSP.

**Healthcare Finance News:** (7/27) – Thirteen national provider groups announced their support for the Value in Health Care Act in a [letter](#) to the sponsors, including for the 5% advanced APM bonus for an additional six years.

**Healthcare Dive:** (7/27) – After 6 months of the pandemic, primary care practices are struggling to dig themselves out of financial holes; patient volumes are declining again, practices are fending for themselves to get PPE, and many practices face looming layoffs or risk shutting down due to lack of financial support.

**Fierce Healthcare:** (7/27) – As more payers move their provider contracts to value-based payment models, transparency is needed to allow provider organizations to see how they are performing under a value-based payment model in close to real-time, allowing them to best make adjustments and make the payer-provider relationship less adversarial.

**Modern Healthcare:** (7/27) – This opinion piece argues that COVID-19 has exposed a foundational weakness in our primary care system. Without investment in four key areas – primary care, acceleration of outpatient technology, data-sharing, and a move to prospective payment and value-based care – we will be no more prepared for the next public health crisis than for this one.

**Health Leaders Media:** (7/27) – A recent survey from the Kaiser Family Foundation found that the vast majority of independent owners reported concern of the future of their physician practices, with 54% reporting to be very concerned and 34% being mildly concerned.

**Forbes:** (7/26) – While many physicians continue to forge ahead, independent physicians continue to face a very dire climate for a large number of independent practices, with an uncertain future for many smaller physician groups and practices.

**WISNews10:** (7/25) – In South Carolina, Independent health practices are using group buying power to obtain PPE through a group called “Action” PPE.” Physicians in 20 states are now ordering through “Action PPE,” which has distributed more than 2 million units of PPE nationwide.

**The New Yorker:** (7/25) – America is facing a looming primary care crisis that was brewing even before the COVID-19 pandemic, but the crisis could encourage swift action to support primary care through direct emergency funding allocations and a shift to value-based payments.

**HealthExec:** (7/24) – Provider organizations are holding off on consolidation during the pandemic, as merger and acquisition activity in the provider sector fell by almost 20% in 2020’s second quarter versus the first quarter. Merger and acquisition spending dove 91% compared with the second quarter of 2019.