



This Week in *Physician-Led Care: Clips from News Sources*
Week Ending August 21, 2020

Revcycle Intelligence: (8/21) – According to a new survey, approximately 16,000 independent physicians have closed their practice so far as a result of COVID-19, but 59% of physicians anticipate COVID-19 to reduce the number of closed practices will rise and independent physician practices in their communities will be shuttered.

Modern Healthcare: (8/20) – A proposed bill in California would require the attorney general to sign off on any healthcare provider transaction exceeding \$1 million, which would likely stifle mergers and acquisitions.

CBS New York: (8/20) – Primary care doctors and clinics across the country face worrisome futures due to the long-lasting financial impact of the coronavirus pandemic as regulatory flexibilities and federal assistance ends.

Healthcare Dive: (8/19) – A survey of 500 healthcare executives found that while the health care industry generally supports alternative payment models, the median percentage of revenue from contracts that linked payment to managing cost and quality was just 10%.

Medscape: (8/19) – As government assistance programs begin to expire or wind down, physician practices across the country are struggling to stay afloat, and some offices have begun to close without any new federal aid and decreasing patient volume.

North Carolina Health News: (8/19) – Small primary care practices have adapted quickly, with many practices using “medical MacGyvering” to continue seeing patients and use telehealth. This article highlights independent primary care physicians in North Carolina and the challenges they are still continuing to face during the COVID-19 pandemic and why this may accelerate the push towards value.

KIVITV: (8/19) – In Idaho, 100 percent of primary care practices have been negatively impacted by COVID-19 with a significant drop in revenue and a substantial increase in cost to obtain necessary PPE.

Health Payer Intelligence: (8/18) – Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina’s value-based program Blue Premier surpassed its year one goal of covering half of its eligible members with value-based care providers, and saved \$153 million as a result of these efforts and distributed \$85 million to provider partners in performance-related payments.

Health Leaders Media: (8/18) – A new study found that less than 20% of Medicare spending is value-based. The study also stated that provider organizations that participate in value-based models like ACOs or bundled payment models can significantly increase their revenue through performance-related bonus payments.

WCAX: (8/18) – A new report from Vermont’s auditor shows hospital consolidation is helping drive health care costs at an unsustainable rate, with provider consolidation being one of the largest factors for driving up costs. In 2011, 53% of physicians ran independent practices. In 2018, more than 80% worked for a hospital.

Fierce Healthcare: (8/18) – Nearly half of physicians believe it will take a year to get COVID-19 under control, with 72% of physicians reporting that the virus will severely impact patient health outcomes due to delayed routine care during the pandemic.

Fierce Healthcare: (8/17) –A study recently posted in Health Affairs found that large systems of hospitals and physician offices were generally not associated with better quality.

Benefits Pro: (8/17) –A recent study from UnitedHealth offers a glimpse of how payment reform can improve key patient outcomes, finding that physicians who are paid a set monthly rate in global capitation provided higher-quality care than physicians who are paid on a service-based system.

Becker’s ASC: (8/17) – This article highlights 5 consolidation trends for ASCs and physicians, noting that vertical integration grew substantially from 2016 to 2018, while the horizontal consolidation of hospitals and health systems grew modestly.

Becker’s Hospital Review: (8/14) – This article ranks each the number of primary care physicians per 100,000 people by state, with Rhode Island having the most physicians at 274.9 per 100,000 and Idaho ranking last, with 96.6 physicians per 100,000 people.