



The Maryland State Medical Society

News: For Immediate Release

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NEW SURVEY SHOWS PHYSICIANS PREFER A TWO-TIERED HEALTH SYSTEM

BALTIMORE, November 10, 2020 — This past Saturday, MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, heard a presentation by Kurt Mosley titled *COVID-19 - A Physicians Perspective* at their annual Fall House of Delegates meeting. This well received and informative presentation was the first public presentation of data and information from a monumental national physician survey on the impact of COVID-19 on Physician Practice and Health Care.

The survey includes data regarding which direction the healthcare system should take; which type of health care system is needed; how physicians view the importance of addressing the social determinants of health; limiting or eliminating surprise medical bills; determining the impact on drug costs of Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs); and a range of other topics. The Survey offers valuable insights into how physicians on the front lines of care have been affected by the coronavirus pandemic, how they have reacted to it, and where they believe we should go from here.

Findings from the survey shows that 24% of physicians have sought medical attention for a physical problem as a result of COVID-19's effects on their practice or employment situation; 52% of physicians plan to increase the use of telemedicine in their practices; Close to three quarters of physicians indicated that COVID-19 will have serious consequences for patient health in their communities because many patients delayed getting care they needed during the pandemic; 50% of physicians believe the coronavirus will not be under control until sometime after June 1, 2021; 70% of physicians agree that insurance companies should include problems patients have accessing health food and safe housing into risk scoring formulas that determine patient complexity; and 73% of physicians indicate that social determinants of health such as access to healthy food and safe housing will drive the demand for health care services in 2021.

In 2008, Merritt Hawkins conducted its first national physician survey on behalf of The Physicians Foundation, a nonprofit seeking to advance the work of practicing physicians and help them facilitate the delivery of high-quality healthcare to patients.

Twelve years later, the Survey of America's Physicians is established as one of the largest and most comprehensive physician surveys conducted in the United States. It provides benchmark data on physician morale and burnout levels, physician career plans and preferences, and physician practice metrics. Merritt Hawkins conducts the survey on a biennial basis for The Physicians Foundation and was set to do so again in April of 2020 when the coronavirus pandemic struck.

Given the impact of Covid-19, The Physicians Foundation determined to complete a special edition of the survey centered on the virus and how it has affected physicians and

their patients. The survey was conducted in three parts with each part focusing on a different aspect of Covid-19. Part One, released in August, looked at how the virus has affected physician practices and their patients. Part Two, released in September, examined how the virus has affected physician well-being. Part Three, released in October, reflects future steps physicians believe should be taken to improve the healthcare system in light of the pandemic.

A copy of this timely new resource can be obtained by contacting Merritt Hawkins Regional Vice President of Marketing at Jeremy.Robinson@merritthawkins.com.

Kurt Mosley is Vice President of Strategic Liaisons for Merritt Hawkins, a company of AMN Healthcare.

About MedChi

MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society is a non-profit membership association of Maryland physicians. It is the largest physician organization in Maryland. The mission of MedChi is to serve as Maryland's foremost advocate and resource for physicians, their patients and the public health of Maryland. For more information, please visit www.medchi.org.

About Merritt Hawkins

Merritt Hawkins is the largest physician search and consulting firm in the United States and is a company of AMN Healthcare (NYSE: AMN). More information about Merritt Hawkins can be accessed at www.merritthawkins.com.