

Medicare for All California Benefits to Physicians

Recent polls of physicians show that a majority of the nation's physicians favor Medicare for All health care reform. A major cause of career dissatisfaction for physicians has been the red tape and micro-management by private insurance companies.

As a sign of the growing concern over the crisis in health care, in a letter published in the [American Journal of Public Health](#), 2,000 physicians expressed their support for Sen. Sanders' proposal to provide comprehensive government-sponsored health care to the entire nation, while simultaneously echoing Sanders' criticisms of the Affordable Care Act for failing to provide affordable health insurance to millions of Americans.

The Washington Post [reports](#) that the doctors' proposal for a Medicare-for-all health care system echoes Senator Sanders' health care proposal, and that it would truly make health care affordable for those still unable to purchase health insurance under the Affordable Care Act.

Medicare for All California would replace most private health insurance plans in California by providing care to all residents.

The savings will come mainly from a reduction of the administrative overhead, which is about 25% in California today, to about 19%. Additional savings are expected from bulk purchasing of pharmaceuticals and medical equipment, from reduced overuse of hospital emergency rooms, and from improved preventive care.

Benefits of Medicare for All California to physicians include:

- The freedom and satisfaction of practicing medicine and seeing patients without concern over payment.
- Reductions of office overhead of about 30% from simplifying the billing process.
- Income comparable to what is experienced now, or better, due to elimination of billing costs.
- Preservation of choice in payment options:
 - a. fee for service in private practice, with a negotiated fee, submission of bills to a single entity with payment within 30 days, and interest for overdue bills.
 - b. salaries within institutions receiving global budgets such as hospitals and clinics.
 - c. salaries within capitated groups such as group practices and HMOs.
- Participation in mechanisms to control medical cost inflation, such as monitoring for extreme practice patterns, and setting overall limits on regional spending.

California OneCare
Medicare for All Californians