

FUTURE OF ILLINOIS PHYSICIAN WORKFORCE Critical Physician Shortage Forecast

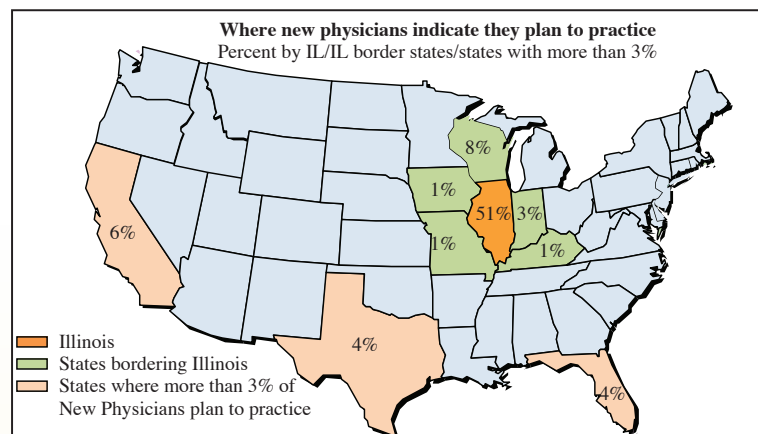
Physician supply is a top strategic priority for health care organizations, with projections that physician shortage will reach crisis proportions if something is not done to reverse the downward trend. Illinois is included in this scenario, with nearly half of all graduating residents leaving the state to practice elsewhere.

ISMS partnered with the Department of Family and Community Medicine at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, the Illinois Hospital Association, and other special interest groups to develop the 2010 Illinois New Physician Workforce Study. This study was the first to examine the state's supply of new physicians in the face of health care reforms and the critical issue of physician shortages. The study examined graduating residents' and fellows' plans for entering the workforce and the reasons for their choices.

More than 1,700 graduating Illinois residents or fellows were surveyed with 561 respondents, a response rate of 32 percent.

Among the key findings:

- Almost 50 percent of graduating Illinois residents and fellows will leave the state to practice medicine. Reasons include overall practice opportunities with proximity to family and compensation.
- Rural communities will remain undersupplied with physicians. 1.5 percent of graduating residents and fellows plan to practice in a rural setting; 20 percent of Americans live in rural settings.
- The job market for new physicians in Illinois is good. In a response to a survey item asking respondents to provide information regarding the number of job offers received, 23 percent of respondents had yet to receive any job offer, but most indicated that they were still considering their employment options. Very few indicated they did not have a job because of a lack of opportunities.
- While anticipated salaries are higher for those planning to practice outside of Illinois, ironically, respondents planning to practice within the state indicate greater levels of satisfaction with compensation than those planning to practice elsewhere.



The study calls for legislators to:

- Create an Illinois Physician Workforce Institute.
- Fight for medical liability or lawsuit tort reform.
- Develop strategies to retain Illinois medical residents and fellows; investigate medical school and residency admission policies to align recruiting efforts to be more favorable to those who are likely to practice in Illinois.
- Centralize the Illinois physician job search and recruitment process.
- Promote physician opportunities in rural communities and provide more incentives to attract physicians to practice in those communities

To read the entire report including additional key findings and policy opportunities go to:

www.isms.org/newsroom/documents/2010_1111_workforce_study.pdf

AMA RFS INTERIM MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

In November, residents and fellows from across the nation gathered in San Diego for the 2010 interim meeting of the American Medical Association Resident & Fellow Section. Three Delegates from the ISMS Resident & Fellow Section attended the meeting in San Diego; Drs. Virginia Hernandez, Pritesh Patel, and Chuck Smittkamp. Dr. Hernandez also participated in the AMA House of Delegates meeting, representing Illinois resident physicians on our state physician delegation.

Assembly Actions

Resolutions passing the RFS assembly included requesting a study to determine possible scenarios for billing for phone consultations, a review of policies related to illegal drug use, and a call to evaluate current medical training for primary care physicians in evaluating drug addiction and abuse.

Tax Exemptions

The AMA has chosen not to file an amicus brief in the upcoming Supreme Court hearings about exemption from Medicare and Social Security federal payroll taxes for

residents. It was explained that although there would be an obvious short-term benefit of larger paychecks, there continues to be worry over the many current resident physicians across the U.S. who rely on Social Security payments due to disability, future residents who may require the same assistance, and the possible effects of failing to earn Social Security credits during time spent in residency.

Other Notables

- There were a record number of abstract submissions for this year's Research Symposium.
- A resident's average medical student debt is now \$156,000.
- The number of physicians in Congress increased with the most recent election. There are 6 new physicians in the House and 1 new physician in the Senate, bringing the current total to 17 Congressman and 3 Senators.

For the full meeting summary and other AMA RFS information, visit www.ama-assn.org and link to "resident" on the home page.



Legislative Updates

Current Medical Legislation

Like it or not, you need to be aware of current Illinois legislative issues that impact medicine. It's a continual battle to protect the physician's scope of practice, and ISMS is dedicated to representing you.

In mid-November, the Illinois General Assembly began its "lame duck" veto session. Lawmakers need to take action on several issues of importance to physicians and patients.

Employment of Allied Health Professionals

Update: Successful VETO Override

The Illinois House and Senate voted to override Governor Quinn's veto of SB 2635. This ISMS-backed bill now becomes state law. This bill clarifies allied health professionals can be employed by physicians without running afoul of state's fee-splitting ban; requires docs employing AHPs to notify patients when referring internally, and offer outside/independent referral option.

Extending the *Medical Practice Act*

Update: Extended through Nov. 30, 2011

The *Act* provides for the licensure and discipline of physicians. Your ISMS supported extension of the *Act* for 10 years to ensure continuity of care for Illinois patients and to protect physicians from unnecessary and redundant burdens by lawmakers. However, the legislature just passed (as of December 1) the extension for only 11 months, to Nov. 30, 2011.

Midwives Bill

Update: Expected to be called to House floor in January

House Floor Amendment 1 (HFA) to SB 3712 would license midwives and allow them to provide unsupervised home birthing services; midwives would be able to dispense and administer drugs. Yet, the bill only requires midwives to complete minimal training in pharmacology. Their assumption that this prepares them to prescribe dangerous drugs will prove to be life threatening to some mothers and their babies. Your ISMS is against this bill.

EIGHT WEEKS IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

Dr. Milford is an ISMS RFS Governing Council member. Below is a brief recap of his recent experience working with the Department of Health and Human Services

Wearing a suit to “work” was a drastic departure from my last elective in the Intensive Care Unit. But I was optimistic about what lay ahead of me the next eight weeks. Fortunately, I was selected to work at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), within the Office of the National Coordinator (ONC). Nearly \$2 billion has been appropriated to ONC under the Recovery Act, enabling HHS to implement the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act. For the next two months, I would be helping measure the successful adoption of Electronic Health Records (EHR).

Demonstrating “meaningful use” of EHRs will be the high water mark for the ONC’s success. Made public July 2010, the Meaningful Use Final Rule is intended to facilitate the widespread adoption of EHRs and measure quality improvement through the use of HIT. Establishing a framework to measure quality of care and improvement of efficiencies using EHR is a significant step forward. My role was to aid the Health Information Technology Quality Measures Workgroup to make clinical

quality measure recommendations for Stage 2 and Stage 3 Meaningful Use to the HIT Policy Committee and the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology, Dr. Blumenthal. My job was exhilarating. Not only did I work with a dedicated group of bright physicians and policy makers, I also realized the ONC is forever changing the way health care will be measured in the future.



Creagh Milford, D.O.

Although my time at the ONC was short, my experience was extraordinarily rich. My days were filled with answering policy questions like how we will assess outcome measures, rather than processes measures using HIT. My experience at ONC has impacted the way I approach my patients, and the way I use our Epic EHR. Creating policies to encourage physicians and hospitals to implement EHRs is a small but very significant step in the right direction. Dedicated visionary physicians and policy makers at the ONC will propel us forward. My experience at the ONC bolsters my hope to practice in a fully integrated electronic environment.

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Career Center on ISMS Web Site

You have an additional job search tool right at your fingertips with Career Center.

Whether you’re actively seeking employment or just want to peruse the current job market, Career Center allows you to:

- create a jobseeker account
- post anonymous resumes
- view jobs
- create personal job alerts

This free service provides great potential for the right job to find you!

Visit Career Center at www.isms.org/careers

End of Year To-Do List

- ✓ **Renew Your ISMS RFS Membership**
Continue to receive your FREE \$10,000 long-term disability insurance and other great benefits. Call ISMS at 1-800-782-4767 or send in your renewal form by mail.
- ✓ **Be a part of the ISMS RFS team in 2011**
Check your email and snail mail for ISMS opportunities in the next few months.
- ✓ **Address or Email Update?**
Send to membership@isms.org
- ✓ **Make Big Plans for 2011!**

Happy New Year

ISMS on Twitter



Receive late-breaking news from ISMS on your cell phone, portable electronic device or computer with ISMS’ free Twitter feed. Search for “Illinois Doctors” to join our feed.

2011

CALENDAR

ISMS RFS Governing Council Meetings

January, March, May, August, October
ISMS Office • Chicago

ISMS House of Delegates Annual Meeting

April 15-17 • Oak Brook

AMA RFS Meetings

June 16-18 • Chicago
Nov. 10-12 • New Orleans

Members and guests are welcome to ISMS RFS meetings; teleconference is available.

For more info email RFS@isms.org



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ISMS Resident and Fellow Leadership 2010/2011 Term

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