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1 in 3 Physicians Plans to Quit within 10 Years

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Blaming low compensation and the hassles of healthcare reform, 34% of physicians say they plan to leave the practice of medicine over the next decade, according to a new national survey.

The online survey of 2,218 physicians by Atlanta-based healthcare staffing recruiters Jackson Healthcare also found that 16% of the respondents said they will, or are strongly considering retiring, leaving medicine, or going part-time in 2012.

Sheri Sorrell, market research manager for Jackson Healthcare, says many of the essay responses from responding physicians were quite lengthy and emotional, especially as they related their reactions to the sweeping changes in medicine that will be brought on by healthcare reform and market demands.

“Some doctors wrote books for us in here. A lot of them are very concerned about the depersonalization and corporatization of medicine,” Sorrell says. “It used to be the family doctor treated your family for years basing the decisions on what is best for you and your family. Whereas an employed doctor not only has to take into account not only what is best for you and your family but also what the organization will allow him to do and what the organization’s guidelines for treating you are.”

Of those physicians who said they plan to retire or leave medicine this year, 56% cited economic factors and 51% cited health reform as among the major factors. Of those physicians who said they are strongly considering leaving medicine in 2012, 55% or 97 physicians, were under age 55.

“That’s what we were most surprised about; that the majority of the folks that were considering leaving medicine or planning to leave medicine this year were under 55 years old. The key takeaway is that they’re not retiring; they’re quitting,” Sorrell says.

The online survey was conducted between April 19–27, before the U.S. Supreme Court’s affirmation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. While most physicians in the survey panned the ACA, they often did so for different reasons.

“They are upset on both ends of the political spectrum,” Sorrell says. “There is a certain amount of doctors who feel like the ACA went way too far with the government stepping in between them and their patients. And the other group says we didn’t go far enough. We need a single-payer system in this country if we are going to address the challenges of medicine. You see both contingents and they are equally displeased. It’s implement and improve versus repeal and replace.”

Sorrell says Jackson Healthcare will continue to survey physicians to see if they make good on their threats to leave, or if they’re just angry about the overall state of healthcare delivery and compensation. “It will be interesting to see in the coming years how

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this bears out; if really the folks who are strongly considering leaving really did," she says.

The survey also found that specialists were more inclined to leave medicine in the next decade, including:

- Oncologists and hematologists — 57% said they would retire by 2022

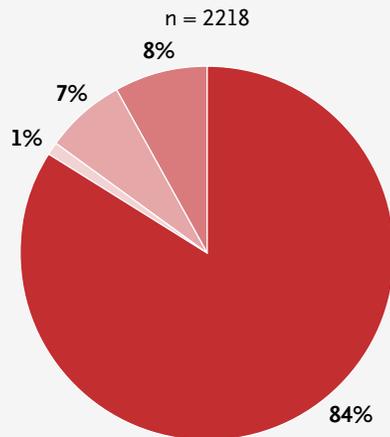
- Otolaryngologists — 49% said they would retire in the next decade
- General Surgeons — 49% said they would retire by 2022
- Cardiologists — 45% said they would retire in the next decade
- Urologists — 42% said they would retire by 2022 ■

MARKET WATCH

Physician attrition in the next 10 years is significant.

The majority of physicians surveyed (84 percent) will continue practicing medicine through 2013. The remaining 16 percent plan to transition to part-time, retire or leave medicine, or they are considering doing so.

Career Plans for 2012–2013



- Will be practicing medicine in 2012–13
- Completely retiring or leaving medicine in 2012
- Considering retirement or leaving medicine in 2012
- Going part-time (contract work or *locum tenens*)

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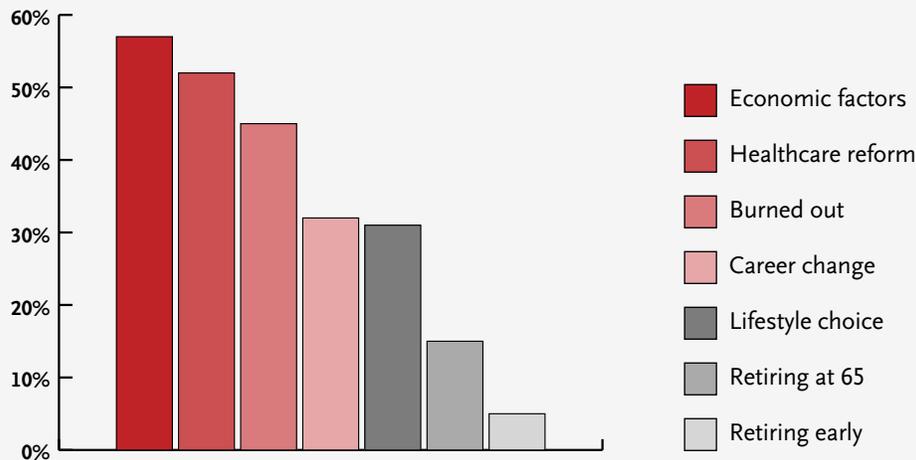
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Physicians Leaving Medicine or Considering Doing So in 2012

n = 208

What reasons do physicians give for retiring or leaving the practice of medicine? They cite a mix of factors such as:

- Economic factors such as medical malpractice insurance, overhead, electronic medical records, etc.
- Don't want to practice in the era of healthcare reform
- Burned out
- Pursuing different career paths outside the practice of medicine
- Lifestyle choice
- Age 65+
- Retiring early because financially able



Source: *A Tough Time for Physicians: 2012 Medical Practice & Attitude Report*.
For a copy of the full report please visit: www.jacksonhealthcare.com/media-room/surveys.aspx

Stop by and say hi!

NEJM CareerCenter will be on the road in November. If you have not done so already be sure to register for one of the conferences below and stop by our booth for some great prizes!

Illinois Staff Physicians Recruiters (ISPR) Conference
November 7-9, 2012, Chicago, IL

Northeast Physician Recruiter Association (NEPRA) Conference
November 14-16, 2012, Boston, MA

What's New at NEJM?

PREMIUM JOBS

You can now upgrade your ad to Premium status. Our Premium jobs have the widest and most targeted exposure online.

On NEJMCareerCenter.org premium jobs are exclusively rotated through the center well of the homepage based on the physician's specialty. When a physician is logged into the site we match their specialty to the jobs rotated through this area; if they are not logged in the ads are based on their previous job searches. They also receive the fullest exposure in our Physicians Jobs Widget, which delivers job listings alongside relevant content (based on specialty) on NEJM.org.

Get high visibility and stand out on the search results page with a "logo in the results listing," a premium tile ad, and by appearing on top of the results. Our Premium jobs receive the highest click-throughs because of their unique and expansive exposure.

**UPCOMING
RECRUITER
MEETINGS
AND MEDICAL
CONVENTIONS**

**Association of American
Medical Colleges***
November 2–7, 2012
San Francisco, CA
www.aamc.org

**American Heart
Association***
November 4–6, 2012
Los Angeles, CA
www.heart.org

**12th Annual Midwest
Physicians Recruiter’s
Conference hosted by
ISPR (Illinois Staff
Physician Recruiters) and
Job Fair sponsored by
PracticeMatch**
November 7–9, 2012
Chicago, IL
www.isprnet.org

**Northeast Physician
Recruiter Association
(NEPRA) Conference**
November 14–16, 2012
Boston, MA
www.nepira.org

*Call (800) 635-6991
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for more details on bonus
convention distribution of
your paid recruitment ad
in selected NEJM issues at
these physician conventions.

PROMOTIONAL NOTES/NEWS

Reach physicians at the *right time* and in the *right place* with the November *Resident Reach* Issue!

The right time: Residents and fellows are most likely to look for a job during their final year.*

The right place: In a recent independent blind survey, the *New England Journal of Medicine* was cited as the number one source used for job listings both in print and online.*

Simply run your paid line or display recruitment ad in any of the November 15 issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*, and your ad will be reprinted in a special booklet that will be mailed to more than 30,000 young physicians.†

We will also email registered users of NEJM CareerCenter when their search criteria match your posting. You can also have your ad posted to the searchable part of the website for a small processing fee.‡

Contact us at (800) 635-6991 or ads@nejmcareercenter.org for complete details and to reserve your ad space for these special fall issues.

PROMOTION	ISSUE	CLOSING DATE	SPECIALTIES	AUDIENCE
November <i>Resident Reach</i>	11/15/12	10/26/12	All specialties — about 100	Final-year residents and fellows

*2010 How Physicians Search for Jobs, *Zeldis Research Associates, Inc.*

†Please refer to the chart for specifics on audience and specialties. The booklet will be mailed to more than 30,000 physicians. Direct mail counts are based on counts provided by the AMA and are subject to change.

‡Processing fees apply to posting your ad to the searchable part of NEJM CareerCenter.