8TH ANNUAL FUTURE PHYSICIANS OF AMERICA SURVEY
Executive Summary

- Satisfaction with medical schools is high, but med students face a mountain of challenges

- Greatest concern of future physicians: Will I be good enough?

- Digital omnivore era: Tablet use in training has skyrocketed among students

- Medical students embrace the idea of practicing patient-centered care

- Students see both positive and negative in the ACA; most are still puzzled by ACOs

- >1,000 medical students representing all 50 states
Survey Methodology

1026 CURRENT MEDICAL STUDENTS
50 U.S. STATES
200+ MEDICAL SCHOOLS

BREAKDOWN OF RESPONDENTS BY YEAR IN MEDICAL SCHOOL

- 41% FOURTH YEAR
- 34% THIRD YEAR
- 20% SECOND YEAR
- 5% FIRST YEAR

This survey was conducted exclusively online July 2013

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Medical School Realities: The Ups & Downs

Students rate their experiences at medical school positively, but face significant challenges.

81% are satisfied with their medical school*

Reasons for Satisfaction**
- General Training
- Culture
- Faculty
- Curriculum

Challenges
- Learning the medical practice business: 6%
- Burn out: 9%
- Volume of information to learn: 23%
- Cost of education/Loan Burden: 46%

Sacrifices
- Family Time
- Money
- Social Life
- Sleep

*includes students who rated schools A or B

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The Hurdles of Becoming a Physician

Med students worry: “Will I be good enough?”

- Being a good physician: 55%
  - Up 22% from 2008
- Balancing work & personal life: 51%
- Paying off student loans: 28%
- Malpractice lawsuits: 17%

Respondents allowed to select up to 2

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More Applicants & Fewer Acceptances Proportionately = Fewer Medical School Options

Top 3 considerations for med students when choosing a medical school

- **Accepted to only one school**: 28% (9% increase since 2008)
- **Reputation**: 37% (2% decrease since 2008)
- **Location**: 51% (7% decrease since 2008)

**Over 1/4 of students had only one choice for med school**

**Admission Statistics: Getting In Is Harder**

- **2012**: 45,260 med student applicants vs. **2002**: 33,624 med student applicants

Since 2002 there were 11,636 more applicants but only 2,886 more acceptances

Source: aamc.com

Respondents allowed to select up to 2

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Of the 66% who turn first to digital references (Internet & mobile), over half (53%) turn to the mobile reference first—35%. Of the 53% who turn to digital references, 53% turn to a mobile reference first to answer a clinical question.

Only 21% seek answers to clinical questions first from a peer, attending or professor.

Of med students, 53% use Epocrates daily.

Physicians mirror their student counterparts. 53% use Epocrates daily.

*Source: Manhattan Research: Taking the Pulse* U.S. 2013

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Digital omnivore (n): a person who uses a tablet, smartphone & computer routinely in a professional or academic capacity

Tablet Boom

- 54% of medical students use a tablet in training
- 31% increase from 2012!
- 18% are required to use tablets in training but...
- 82% use tablets voluntarily

Top tasks performed on tablet
- Look up clinical data
- Access patient records
- Communicate with colleagues and physicians
Med Students Plan to Join Group Practices or Hospitals

There is security in numbers

69% of med students will work in a group practice or a hospital

17% will go into solo or partnership practice

Why medical students may avoid solo or partnership practices:

- 41% dissatisfied with training in billing and coding
- 37% dissatisfied with training in practice management
- 51% are concerned with balancing work and a personal life
- 17% don’t want to deal with lawsuits or malpractice insurance premiums

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Future Physicians Are Patient-Focused

The New Norm: Patient-Centered Care

Patient-centered care (n):
Supporting involvement of patients and families in treatment and shared decision-making

Top qualities for successful patient-physician relationships

Physicians
- good communication skills
- intelligence
- good judgment

Patients
- honesty/candor
- engaged
- ability to follow instructions

72% of students are likely to practice patient-centered care

71% are satisfied with training in bedside manner (the highest satisfaction rate)

67% are satisfied with patient-centered care training

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Med Students, Patients, & Social Media

Communication with patients is key, but med students draw the line at social media

91% of med students think it is unacceptable to friend a patient on Facebook

82% would recommend health-related apps to future patients

82% of med students think it is unacceptable to post pictures or discuss a patient case online.

Acceptable forms of communication between patient & physician

- EHRs (Electronic Health Records)
- Physician or Hospital portals
- PHRs (Personal Health Records)

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Students See Fragmented Care as Top Safety Risk for Patients

According to med students, the greatest safety risks are...

- Fragmented care 34%
- Cost-prohibitive care 26% (e.g. lack of insurance)
- Medication non-compliance 12%
- Too much information 11% (e.g. quantity, availability, quality)
- Access to care 8% (e.g., location-based)
- Misdiagnosis 4%
- Other (fill in) 2%
- Treatment errors 2%
- Prescription errors 1%
Students Weigh the Effects of the Affordable Care Act

Benefits slightly outweigh the drawbacks

- 45% Expanded Patient Coverage
- 46% Practicing More Preventative Care
- 52% Less Time with Patients
- 34% Loss of Clinical Autonomy

Respondents allowed to check all that apply

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Students are Still Perplexed When it Comes to Accountable Care Organizations

2013

72% feel uninformed about ACOs*

76% felt uninformed about ACOs in 2011

of uninformed students, 55% are unsure of effects of ACOs

13% think ACOs will have a positive effect, 13% a negative effect

of the informed students, 41% think ACOs will have a positive effect; 16% a negative effect**

Knowledge equals power. Students see value in what they understand.

*ACO data also includes Meaningful Use
**Includes informed and somewhat informed students
Positive opinions include positive and somewhat positive; negative opinions include negative and somewhat negative

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In addition to the power of healing, which bonus superpower would students choose to use as a physician?

- **Ability to see the future**: 53%
- **Telepathy**: 23%
- **X-ray Vision**: 13%
- **Telekinesis**: 8%
- **Super Strength**: 3%

(n=1026)
Thank You

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