

Advancing Primary Care: Council on Graduate Medical Education Twentieth Report



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(Rebecca Bechtelar)

ADVANCING PRIMARY CARE: COUNCIL ON GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION TWENTIETH REPORT



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Createspace, United States, 2012. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 279 x 216 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.As a result of a number of factors including compensation, practice environments, and experience in medical school, there is a shortage in the number of primary care physicians that is accelerating. In addition, a percentage of obstetricians/gynecologists serve as primary care providers, particularly among their younger female adult patients. While there are real shortages in general surgery and key pediatric and internal medicine subspecialties, the shortage in primary care providers, particularly those capable of caring for adults with chronic disease, overshadows the deficits in all other specialties. This shortage is especially critical in the context of health care reform objectives that have the potential of adding 32 million newly insured individuals that will only further increase the need for primary care physicians. The current U.S. primary care physician workforce is in jeopardy of accelerated decline because of decreased production and accelerated attrition. A review of questionnaires administered to all 2008 allopathic and osteopathic medical school graduates revealed that only 17 percent chose any of the primary care specialties as their first choice. This decreased medical student interest in primary care is caused by multiple factors including the high workload and insufficient reimbursement of this field of practice relative to the earnings of many specialists. These factors, in addition to the hidden curriculum in many medical schools that actively discourages student interest in the adult primary care specialties, the lack of strong primary care role models, and dynamic practice environments in other specialties often absent onerous administrative requirements, contribute to the reluctance to enter primary care disciplines. This workforce is also in jeopardy because of the substantial reduction in the production of primary care physicians from graduate medical education....

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