

# Excess health care spending up for PCP turnover in the U.S.

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Turnover of primary care physicians (PCPs) is costly, resulting in about

\$979 million in excess health care expenditures per year, and a considerable proportion of this spending is attributable to PCP burnout-related turnover, according to a study published online Feb. 25 in the *Mayo Clinic Proceedings*.

Christine A. Sinsky, M.D., from the American Medical Association in Chicago, and colleagues estimated excess health care expenditures attributable to overall and burnout-specific PCP [turnover](#). To estimate excess expenditures attributable to PCP turnover due to burnout, data relating to burnout and intention to leave one's [current practice](#) within two years were obtained from a cross-sectional survey of U.S. physicians conducted between Oct. 12, 2017, and March 15, 2018.

The researchers found that for public and private payers, PCP turnover resulted in about \$979 million in excess health care expenditures each year. PCP burnout-related turnover accounted for \$260 million.

"Turnover of primary care physicians is costly to public and private payers, yet there is an opportunity to decrease unnecessary health care expenditures by reducing burnout-related turnover," Sinsky said in a statement. "Physician burnout is preventable and payers, [health care organizations](#), and others have a vested interest in making meaningful changes to reduce physician burnout."

Several authors are inventors of instruments, including the Well-being Index instruments; Mayo Clinic holds the copyright for these instruments.

**More information:** [Abstract/Full Text](#)

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