

Assessing Physician Attitudes and Locum Tenens Physician Utilization in the Rural Urological Setting



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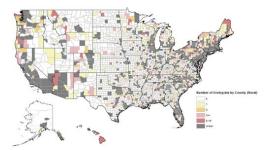
Health Challenge

- 20% of Americans live in the rural US but only
 9% of urologists practice in a rural area [1,2]
- Rural urologists are tend to be <u>older</u> and are <u>retiring</u> [3]
- Urologic patients in rural areas tend to be older and from lower Socioeconomic Status (SES) [4]
- Rural patients tend to <u>wait longer</u> for medical intervention compared to patients in urban settings, leading to worse outcomes [5,6]
- Understanding <u>urologists' motivations</u> for practicing in metropolitan areas and rural areas, and evaluating what interventions are in place to increase urologic access in rural areas is important to help mitigate the disparity that rural patients face

Proposal Overview Literature Review Analysis Survey Conduct a literature review Literature analysis: Population: hospitals & physicians to analyze the hospital cost Summarize current literature in rural and metropolitan areas for locum tenens urologists explaining prior attempts of utilization in rural settings of locum tenens and visiting urologist consultation Examine existing data to assess statistical difference between hospital cost for locum tenens urologists in Data analysis: Utilize likert scales, multiple Determine association between practice the rural and metropolitan choice, and free responses setting utilizing Locum Tenens, QOLY, practice settings happiness, and additional work factors



- Determine whether locum tenens physicians may be utilized to address current urologist shortages in rural communities
- Elucidate physician attitudes in determining whether to work in a rural or metropolitan setting
 - Use our findings to create a policy brief describing our findings and advocating for enhanced access to urological care in rural areas
 - Aligns with AUA Policy Initiative
 "Workforce Shortages and
 Physician Payment and Coverage



Supplemental Figure A. Map of Urologist Distribution in Rural and Metropolitan Areas [7]. Note that 60% of US counties lack a urologist [7]

Survey physicians about the following parameters:

- Quality of life
 Happiness
- Factors influencing choice of
 - choice of workplace (e.g., family location and preference)

Survey hospitals about the following parameters:

- Utilization of locum tenens
- Cost of utilization of these services

Citations

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