

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

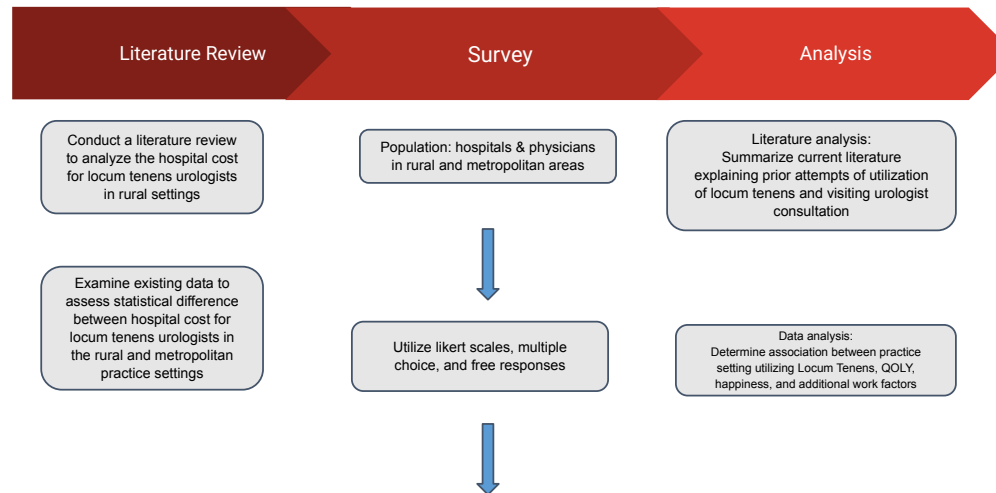
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Health Challenge

- **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 **older** and are **retiring** [3]
- Urologic **patients** in rural areas tend to be older and from lower Socioeconomic Status (SES) [4]
- Rural patients tend to **wait longer** for medical intervention compared to patients in urban settings, leading to worse outcomes [5,6]
- Understanding **urologists' motivations** 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



Objectives

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

