

“The current and likely growing undersupply of primary care practitioners in the United States is a focus of both state and national policy makers” (Carrier, Yee, & Stark, 2011, para. 2). The amount of practicing physicians, Advanced Practice Nurses, and Physicians Assistants practicing in the United States today total approximately four hundred thousand (Carrier, Tee, & Stark, 2011). With the new healthcare reform act there are more patients seeking medical care than ever before.

The text mentions several ways to increase the primary care work force. Short term ways to increase the workforce is by increasing reimbursement payments for all new patients insured under the health reform act. Increasing reimbursement would be incentive for primary care providers at retirement age to continue to practice and see more patients. Another short term strategy would be “examining how changes in state scope of practice policies might increase the supply of non-physician practitioners” (Carrier, Yee, & Stark, 2011, para. 1).

Long term strategies would include increasing scholarships, loan repayment programs, and training grants (Estes, Chapman, Dodd, Hollister, & Harrington, 2013). These are all great incentives for students to continue their education or take on a new career as a physician, APN, or PA. According to the article, increasing funding in loan forgiveness for clinicians willing to serve in rural areas is also another way to attract clinicians to primary care (Carrier et al., 2011). Another strategy mentioned was to increase the number of trainees that may choose to be primary care providers in order to meet the demands in the long term (Carrier et al., 2011).

Economical considerations would be access to health care for more Americans, bringing primary care physicians to rural areas, new clinicians practicing in primary care, and ideally healthier populations.

Carrier, E., Yee, T., & Stark, L. B. (2011). Matching supply to demand: Addressing the U.S. primary care workforce shortage. Retrieved from http://www.nihcr.org/PCP_Workforce

Estes, C. L., Chapman, S. A., Dodd, C., Hollister, B., & Harrington, C. (2013). *Health policy crisis and reform* (6th ed.). Burlington, MA: Jones & Bartlett Learning.