

DRAFT of Cover Letter to Accompany Survey Instrument

October 1, 2006

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«mas_add1»
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Dear Dr. «mas_last»:

The American Academy of Family Physicians National Research Network is investigating the factors that permit or deter family physicians from providing unreimbursed care to their patients in primary care settings. The study is funded via a contract from the federal Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). The study will provide AHRQ 1) information regarding the current state of physician-supplied safety net care and 2) information that will be helpful in promoting and protecting the quality of healthcare to vulnerable populations.

You are one of 1,200 US family physicians selected at random from the AAFP active membership database to participate in this important study. Your responses to the study questionnaire therefore are crucial so that the results will be as accurate as possible.

The survey will take about 15 minutes to complete. **We are requesting that you complete the survey by November 1.** We hope to present the preliminary results at the AAFP Scientific Assembly in Chicago in October, 2007.

Your responses will be confidential; nobody will be able to link a given respondent's name to his/her answers after completed surveys have been returned and responses tabulated with those of other study physicians. There is no foreseeable risk to you for participating in this study.

You may complete this survey by taking either the on-line version or the paper version. To complete the on-line version on a secure Internet Website:

Step 1. Access [URL address goes here]

Step 2. Select "National Physician Survey on Unreimbursed Care"

Step 3. Enter your unique ID number: _____

Step 4. Answer the survey questions

Step 5. Log off after answering last question.

If you cannot access the Internet survey or would prefer to complete the paper version, please complete the enclosed paper questionnaire and return it in the postage-paid return envelope to the AAFP NRN office.

Please complete the survey only *once* – either the electronic *or* paper version. And, if you have questions, please contact Aaron J. Bonham, MS (Project Manager, 1-800 274-2237, x-3175 or abonham@aafp.org) or James M. Galliher, PhD (1-800-274-2237, x-3170 or jgallihe@aafp.org).

After data have been collected and analyzed, NRN staff will develop a summary report for physicians contributing to the study. We look forward to hearing from you.

Thanks and best wishes,

Rick Kellerman, MD
President
AAFP

Wilson D. Pace, MD
Network Director
AAFP National Research Network

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