

ONLINE APPENDICES

# 4

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**Physician and other health  
professional services**

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ONLINE APPENDIX

# 4 A

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## **Access to physician care**

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**TABLE  
4-A1**

**Access to physician care for Medicare beneficiaries is similar to that for privately insured individuals in urban and rural areas, 2011**

Survey question	Medicare (age 65 or older)			Private insurance (age 50-64)		
	All	Urban	Rural	All	Urban	Rural
<b>Unwanted delay in getting an appointment:</b> Among those who needed an appointment in the past 12 months, "How often did you have to wait longer than you wanted to get a doctor's appointment?"						
<b>For routine care</b>						
Never	74% <sup>a</sup>	74% <sup>a</sup>	76% <sup>a</sup>	71% <sup>a</sup>	71% <sup>a</sup>	71% <sup>a</sup>
Sometimes	18 <sup>a</sup>	18 <sup>a</sup>	18	21 <sup>a</sup>	21 <sup>a</sup>	22
Usually	3	4	3	4	4	4
Always	2 <sup>a</sup>	2 <sup>a</sup>	2	3 <sup>a</sup>	3 <sup>a</sup>	3
<b>For illness or injury</b>						
Never	82	81	83	79	79	81
Sometimes	14 <sup>a</sup>	14 <sup>a</sup>	12	17 <sup>a</sup>	17 <sup>a</sup>	15
Usually	2	2	2	2	2	3
Always	1	1	1	1	1	1
<b>Looking for a new primary care physician:</b> "In the past 12 months, have you tried to get a new...?" Percent answering "Yes"						
Primary care physician	6	6	5	7	7	6
Specialist	14 <sup>a</sup>	15 <sup>b</sup>	12 <sup>b</sup>	16 <sup>a</sup>	17	15
<b>Getting a new physician:</b> Among those who tried to get an appointment with a new primary care physician or a specialist in the past 12 months, "How much of a problem was it finding a primary care doctor/specialist who would treat you? Was it..."						
<b>Primary care physician</b>						
No problem	65	63	75	68	69	65
<i>Percent of total insurance group, by area</i>	3.6	3.6	3.7	4.5	4.6	4
Small problem	12	12	14	16	16	19
<i>Percent of total insurance group, by area</i>	0.7	0.7	0.7	1.1	1.0	1.2
Big problem	23 <sup>a</sup>	25 <sup>a</sup>	11	14 <sup>a</sup>	14 <sup>a</sup>	15
<i>Percent of total insurance group, by area</i>	1.3	1.5	0.5	0.9	0.9	0.9
<b>Specialist</b>						
No problem	84 <sup>a</sup>	84	85	86	87	79
<i>Percent of total insurance group, by area</i>	12.1	12.5	10	13.9	14.4	11.5
Small problem	8	8	7	8	8	9
<i>Percent of total insurance group, by area</i>	1.1	1.2	0.8	1.3	1.3	1.3
Big problem	7	7	8	6	5	10
<i>Percent of total insurance group, by area</i>	1.0	1.1	0.9	1.0	0.8 <sup>b</sup>	1.4
<b>Not accessing a doctor for medical problems:</b> "During the past 12 months, did you have any health problem or condition about which you think you should have seen a doctor or other medical person, but did not?"						
(Percent answering "Yes")	8 <sup>a</sup>	8 <sup>a</sup>	8 <sup>a</sup>	11 <sup>a</sup>	11 <sup>a</sup>	12 <sup>a</sup>

Note: Numbers may not sum to 100 percent due to rounding. Missing responses ("Don't Know" or "Refused") are not presented. Sample sizes for each group (Medicare and privately insured) were 4,000. Overall sample sizes for individual questions varied.

<sup>a</sup> Statistically significant difference between the Medicare and privately insured populations (at a 95 percent confidence level).

<sup>b</sup> Statistically significant difference between area type within the same insurance category (at a 95 percent confidence level).

Source: MedPAC-sponsored telephone survey conducted in 2011.