

National Survey: patient sentiment on scope of practice

National Toplines

The survey was conducted among 1,000 U.S. voters between January 27th and February 1st, 2021. The margin of error is +/- 3.5 at the 95% confidence interval.

of U.S. voters say it is important to them for a physician to be involved in diagnosis and treatment decisions.

Expectations extend across parties, with 65% of Republicans, 71% of Democrats, and 64% of independents saying it is very important.

of U.S. voters said it was not important to have a physician involved in specific treatments, such as anesthesia, surgery, and other invasive medical procedures.

U.S. voters are most concerned about allowing optometrists without medical degrees to perform eye surgery, with total opposition at 79% among Americans (64% strongly oppose).

of U.S. voters say patients are most likely to be harmed from scope of practice changes. Only 9% said patients would benefit.

This includes 66% of Republicans, 57% of Democrats, and 64% of independents.

of U.S. voters believe these changes will most benefit non-physician health care practitioners.

Seventeen percent (17%) say for-profit health care providers are most likely to benefit and 16% say health insurance companies.

of U.S. voters think these changes would make our health care system worse.

This includes majorities across parties, with the strongest sentiment among Republicans (69% worse). Fifty-five percent (55%) of Democrats and 64% of independents say these changes would make our health care system worse.