

Assessing the Value of a Neurosurgeon to a Hospital/Health System; a Survey by the CSNS Medical

Director's Ad-Hoc Committee

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Introduction

Trends continue to show increases in hospital mergers and acquisitions. The delivery of healthcare is becoming more consolidated at the local level. Here we study the impact this has on the practicing neurosurgeon.

Methods

The CSNS Medical Directors Ad-Hoc Committee solicited internet survey responses from practicing neurosurgeons regarding mergers, physician reimbursement, and practice satisfaction. Demographic information included: state of practice, sub-specialty training, years in practice, type of practice, practice setting, population catchment area, trauma status, market competition, contract negotiations, call algorithms, and reimbursement/reimbursement reform.

Results

357 responses were generated. 92% (330/357) of neurosurgeons noted consolidation within their local healthcare market. 131/352 (36.7%) of neurosurgeons surveyed were unsatisfied with their practice. Of those who were unsatisfied 87.8% felt they had lost control of their practice compared to 20.9% of those who were satisfied in their practice ($p < 0.0001$). This included such markers of control as having input on equipment decisions ($p < 0.0001$), having a say in the hiring of office staff ($p < 0.0001$), and having access to personal ($p = .0004$) and hospital ($p = < 0.001$) financial data.

On multivariate analysis loss of practice control remained a statistically significant predictor of not being satisfied in one's practice $p = .001$ OR: 0.38 (0.36-0.17).

Conclusions

Amidst the backdrop of healthcare consolidation maintaining control of one's neurosurgery practice remains vital to satisfaction in a neurosurgery career. Those who feel that they have lost control over their practice are, on average, almost 13 times more likely to not be satisfied with their current practice situation compared to those who feel they have control.

This corresponds with tangible and measurable action items that can increase physician control over their practice such as having input on office staff hirings, controlling equipment purchases, and having access to hospital/personal financial productivity data.

Learning Objectives

- 1) understand the role hospital mergers are playing in the healthcare market
- 2) understand the impact that mergers have in neurosurgery care delivery
- 3) understand the link between control of one's practice and physician satisfaction
- 4) understand the need and steps that can be taken to maintain control of one's practice environment

References

Gaynor, Martin, and Robert Town. "The impact of hospital consolidation—update." The Synthesis Project. Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

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