IF I COULD CHANGE ONE THING ABOUT MEDICINE...

By Physicians Practice's Editorial Advisory Board

- Less interference from insurers
- Less paperwork
- No prior authorizations
IF I COULD CHANGE ONE THING ABOUT MEDICINE...

"I'd get rid of insurance companies, or at least the thousands of 'middle managers' who require more and more paperwork so we can do less and less. Pay the damned bill and let me work!"

*Stephen J. Rockower, MD, a North Bethesda, Md.-based orthopedic surgeon*
IF I COULD CHANGE ONE THING ABOUT MEDICINE...

"I would like to do away with the need to get medications or devices re-authorized and the need to change meds for patients who are stable on their regimen. I understand the need to make sure [medication is] prescribed for the appropriate patients and the need to curtail costs, but it is ridiculous to have to prove every six months that a man with no pituitary function still needs testosterone."

Melissa Young, MD, a Freehold, N.J.-based endocrinologist
IF I COULD CHANGE ONE THING ABOUT MEDICINE...

"I would make prior authorizations go magically away forever. Prior authorizations have to be the single largest time suck in medicine."

James Legan, MD, a Great Falls, Mont.-based internist
"If you're going to make me pick one thing I would change, it would be to standardize fees and payments and make it all transparent. That way, in-network providers wouldn't have to play games with the payers and could make better decisions with respect to ancillary and hospital services for their patients."

*Rebecca Fox, MD, a Loundon County, Va.-based pediatrician*
IF I COULD CHANGE ONE THING ABOUT MEDICINE...

"I’d like the U.S. to have a Medicare-for-all system."

Leann DiDomenico McAllister, a Plymouth, Mass.-based administrative director
"Put medicine back into the hands of doctors. Not that I want to step back into the past, but there was a time when medicine was controlled by those who devoted their lives to the betterment of mankind—namely physicians. Not that physicians aren’t obsessed with income, but the provision of medical care and the allocation of medical-related resources was always determined by the physician, who is ultimately responsible for the care of a patient. Today, I practice insurance. I practice medical law. I practice defensive medicine. I practice EHR medicine. I practice PQRS, Meaningful Use, MACRA, MIPS, and APMs."

Jeffrey Blank, MD, a Crystal Lake, Ill.-based podiatric foot surgeon
IF I COULD CHANGE ONE THING ABOUT MEDICINE...

"I would like to spend less time on paperwork and pointless insurance documentation to be able to spend more time with my patients — the reason I really went into medicine."

Deborah Winiger, MD, a Vernon Hills, Ill.-based family medicine physician
"It would be the attitude of the patients that feel they are owed something by their healthcare provider. I try to create a physician-patient culture that forms a relationship or partnership in resolving/maintaining health issues...opposed to the thought that we are a service and the patient is the customer that has 'paid' for their care and with that comes a certain expectation. In a healthy doctor-patient relationship, there is mutual giving from both parties."

Mark Birmingham, MD, a Boulder, Colo.-based podiatric foot surgeon
IF I COULD CHANGE ONE THING ABOUT MEDICINE...

"I wish we could go back to the good old days in medicine. I would take insurance completely out of the equation, and go back to cash-based medical care. The doctor and hospital would be paid directly for the care they provided. There would be no middle man, no hassle with whether or not an insurance company covered it, agreed with it, or flagrantly denied care."

Elizabeth Seymour, MD, a Denton, Texas-based family medicine physician
IF I COULD CHANGE ONE THING ABOUT MEDICINE...

"I would ensure that behavioral health and social determinants of health would be addressed on the same level as physical health."

*Terence McAllister, MD, a Plymouth, Mass.-based pediatrician*