

Many patients would switch doc to cut health care costs

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(HealthDay)—Many Americans feel that keeping out-of-pocket health care costs is more important than staying with the same primary care physician.

Researchers from HealthPocket, a website that ranks and compares health plans, surveyed 713 consumers regarding whether they would be willing to change physicians if it meant they would save [money](#) on [insurance](#) premiums, and how much they would need to save in order to actually change physician.

The researchers found that 34 percent of respondents thought that keeping their [insurance costs](#) down was more important than remaining

with the same physician. Furthermore, 18.6 percent said they would be willing to change physician to save \$500 to \$1,000 annually, compared with 8.1 and 7.5 percent, respectively, who would switch to save a minimum of \$1,000 to \$2,000 or \$3,000 or more. More than 40 percent reported that they would not switch physician.

"We live in the real world, where patients might say: 'I like my physician, but this other plan is more affordable, and I might change physicians,'" Glen Stream, M.D., board chair of the American Academy of Family Physicians, said in a statement.

More information: [More Information](#)

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