

Drop in compensation gap for primary care docs, specialists

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(HealthDay)—From 2012 to 2013, there was a 5.7 percent increase in the median total cash compensation for primary care physicians, with a smaller gap seen for medical and surgical specialists, according to the results of a recent survey from SullivanCotter.

The survey reported data from 484 organizations covering 91,000 [health care providers](#). Cash compensation data were included for 230 physicians, Ph.D., and advanced practice clinician specialties, and for eight medical group executive positions.

According to the report, there was a 5.7 percent overall increase of median total [cash compensation](#) for [primary care physicians](#) between 2012 and 2013. During the same timeframe, medical and surgical

specialists had increases of 3.2 and 2.3 percent. In an approach that allowed performance-metrics such as quality to be part of the physician compensation model, in 2013, the overall median amount paid for quality was \$15,000, but this ranged from \$7,000 for primary care to \$20,000 for medical and surgical specialties. The amount paid for quality represented 5 percent of the total cash compensation.

"For many years, our survey results have shown a widening gap in the pay relationships between primary care physicians and specialists. The results from our 2013 survey demonstrate a slight shift in the market and these pay relationships," Kim Mobley, the managing principal and national physician compensation practice leader at SullivanCotter, said in a statement. "This is consistent with the ever-increasing labor market demand for [primary care](#) physicians."

More information: [More Information](#)

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