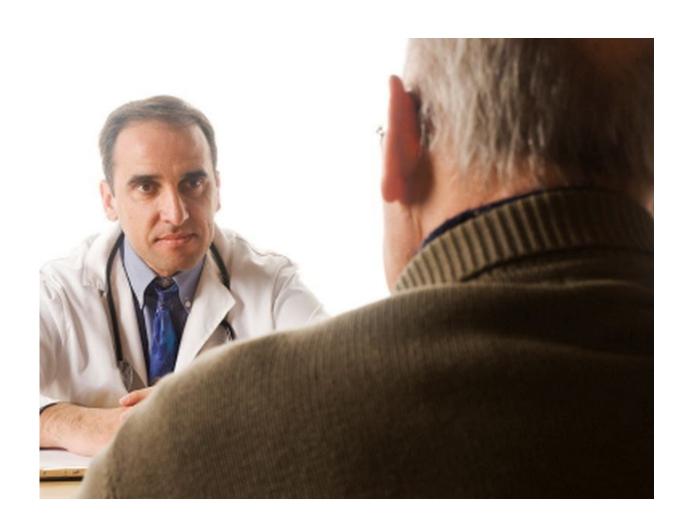


## 'Nontrivial' number of seniors lack a personal physician

March 28 2018



(HealthDay)—Medicare beneficiaries without a personal physician



report substantially worse patient experiences and less routine care, according to a study published online Feb. 16 in *Medical Care*.

Grant R. Martsolf, Ph.D., from the University of Pittsburgh, and colleagues assessed the care <u>experiences</u> of older adults without a personal <u>physician</u> using data from 272,463 beneficiaries (aged ≥65 years) participating in the 2012 Medicare Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems survey.

The researchers found that 5 percent of respondents reported no personal physician. Men, racial/ethnic minorities (e.g., 16 percent of American Indian/Alaska Natives), and the younger and less educated respondents more commonly lacked a personal physician. Those without a personal physician reported substantially poorer scores on four measures of patient experience (P health care provider in the last six months.

"Even with the access provided by Medicare, a small but nontrivial proportion of seniors report having no personal physician," the authors write. "Efforts should be made to encourage and help seniors without personal physicians to select one."

**More information:** <u>Abstract/Full Text (subscription or payment may be required)</u>

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