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Patients Get Less Time Than Paperwork

Physician use of time in four states was studied and reported. These 57 physicians in family medicine, internal medicine, cardiology and orthopedics were observed for 430 hours. Twenty-one kept after-hours diaries of their use of time. Here are the disturbing results:

Physicians spent only 27 percent of their time on direct clinical face time with patients and a whopping 49.2 percent of their time on the electronic medical record and desk work. The doctors with diaries spent an additional one or two hours each night devoted to tasks related to the electronic medical record. In short, doctors spent twice as much time on bureaucratic charting and reporting than on taking care of or talking to patients.


Presented daily by Twila Brase, President, Citizens’ Council for Health Freedom.

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