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### Cancer Care's Road to Recovery from the Global Pandemic

Debra Patt, MD, PhD, MBA, FASCO, executive vice president, Public Policy and Strategic Initiatives at Texas Oncology, talks to ACCCBuzz about how delays in cancer screening and treatment during COVID-19 are translating into cancer mortality. But the news is not all bad. Dr. Patt shares some silver linings, including how innovative approaches adopted as a result of the global pandemic have the potential to reduce disparities in cancer care. Read the full interview at [accc-cancer.org/acccbuzz](https://accc-cancer.org/acccbuzz). Then make plans to attend the ACCC 38th National Oncology Conference, Oct. 20-22, in Austin, Texas, where Dr. Patt will deliver the luncheon keynote. Register today at [accc-cancer.org/NOC](https://accc-cancer.org/NOC).



WEBINAR

### Billing and Coding Fundamentals for Leaders in Oncology

This webinar addresses high-level information related to coding and billing basics for oncology services. Learn how coding and billing varies by the setting where the services are performed, the geographic location of those services, and payer policies. This session focuses on common terminology related to coding and billing for oncology outpatient services, how these terms apply to the various care delivery settings, and resources related to this information. Register and listen today at [accc-cancer.org/billing-coding-fundamentals-webinar](https://accc-cancer.org/billing-coding-fundamentals-webinar).



RESOURCE

### Biomarker Testing Implementation Roadmap for NSCLC

This online learning tool helps multidisciplinary cancer care teams obtain the knowledge they need to implement, expand, and sustain biomarker testing for patients with advanced NSCLC. The Roadmap offers users information about how to lay the groundwork for biomarker testing, train and prepare their care teams to offer testing, implement the testing, and evaluate ongoing progress. For example, in the Roadmap's "Lay the Groundwork" section, learn the basics of biomarker testing, assess your institution's buy-in, and act by conducting an organizational readiness assessment. [accc-cancer.org/nsclc-roadmap](https://accc-cancer.org/nsclc-roadmap).



PODCAST

### CANCER BUZZ Podcast Highlights the Role APs Can Play in Research

In this episode, Christa Braun-Ingllis, MS, APRN, FNP-BC, AONP, nurse practitioner and clinical researcher at the University of Hawai'i Cancer Center in Honolulu, Hawaii, explores how oncology advanced practitioners (APs) can play a greater role in clinical research and, according to a recent national study, have a strong interest in doing so. Hear how APs can leverage their deep role in day-to-day cancer care decisions to improve diversity in clinical trials by bringing their experience to trial design and the accrual process. Find this podcast and two others that share key themes and findings from a virtual summit co-hosted by ACCC and Harborside that helped define the role of APs in equitable cancer care delivery at [accc-cancer.org/podcast](https://accc-cancer.org/podcast).

# fast



## Got Trust?

- Nearly **1 in 3** physicians (**30%**) say their trust in the U.S. healthcare system and healthcare organization leadership decreased since COVID-19; only **18%** report increased trust.
- Physicians report high levels of trust for other physicians (**94%** trust doctors within their practice; **85%** trust doctors outside of their practice) and nurses (**89%**).
- Only **2/3** of physicians (**66%**) trust healthcare organization leaders and executives.
- During the pandemic, physicians report increased trust for fellow physicians (**41%**) and for nurses (**37%**).
- From the patient perspective, older adults (**90%**), white people (**82%**), and high-income individuals (**89%**) say they trust their doctors.
- Among people who report lower trust in their doctors, **25%** say their doctor spends too little time with them and **14%** say their doctor does not know or listen to them.
- Yet patients trust clinicians—doctors (**84%**) and nurses (**85%**)—more than the U.S. healthcare system (**64%**).
- About **1 in 3** patients (**32%**) say their trust in the healthcare system decreased during the pandemic, compared to **11%** whose trust increased.
- Nearly all physicians (**90%**) believe patients can easily schedule appointments, but nearly **1 in 4** patients (**24%**) disagree.
- Almost all physicians (**98%**) say that spending an appropriate amount of time with patients is important, but only **77%** of patients think their doctor spends an appropriate amount of time with them.

Source. Building Trust: An Initiative of the American Board of Internal Medicine Foundation. [buildingtrust.org](https://buildingtrust.org).

# facts

## How is Medical Debt Impacting Our Finances?

- **60%** of Americans have been in debt due to medical bills. **37%** owe medical debt, and **23%** have had medical debt in the past. On average, these individuals owe between **\$5K to \$10K**.
- Top drivers of medical debt are often unpredictable, unavoidable procedures, like ER visits (**39%**), doctor or specialist visits (**28%**), surgery (**26%**), childbirth (**22%**), and dental care (**20%**).
- **72%** of those who have medical debt said it prevents them from achieving key milestones. **34%** said it prevents them from saving for retirement. **1 in 5 (19%)** said it's preventing them from buying a home, and **10%** said it prevents them from having kids.
- **3 in 4** people who have had medical debt tried to negotiate their bill. Nearly all of those who did negotiate (**93%**) had their bill reduced or dropped altogether.

Source: Lending Tree. [lendingtree.com/personal/medical-debt-survey](https://lendingtree.com/personal/medical-debt-survey).



**Black women are almost 1.5 times more likely to receive longer breast cancer radiotherapy regimens than White women, resulting in increased pain, financial hardship, emotional stress, and higher mortality.**

Source: Emerson MA, et al. Breast cancer treatment delays by socioeconomic and health care access latent classes in Black and White women. *Cancer*. 2020;126(22):4957-4966.

**One study reported a 60% reduction in new oncology trials globally during the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic (January 2020 to May 2020).**

Source: Lamont EB, et al. Trends in oncology clinical trials launched before and during the COVID-19 pandemic. *JAMA Netw Open*. 2021;4(1):e2036353. doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2020.36353.



## 5 Questions Bosses Ask to Cultivate Commitment

1. When do you feel most proud of what you do?
2. What are the challenges you face in your work that I don't see?
3. Who on your team have you come to count on the most?
4. What do you need from me that you aren't getting?
5. If you were to leave this job, what would be the reason?

Source: Joe Mull & Associates. [joemull.com](https://joemull.com). #bossbetter.

