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### Virtual Assessment of Physical Function in Adults with Cancer: Practical Tips

Two experts provide practical strategies to gather critical information quickly and effectively about your patients' functional health—by phone or video. Learn proven methods to perform these assessments on adults with cancer—even when they are not in your physical office. Watch online at [acc-cancer.org/telemedicine-for-physical-health](https://acc-cancer.org/telemedicine-for-physical-health).



### MRD Implementation Roadmap

This innovative learning tool helps multidisciplinary cancer care teams obtain the knowledge they need to implement, expand, and sustain (MDR) testing for adult patients with acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Explore this online tool at [acc-cancer.org/ALL-Roadmap](https://acc-cancer.org/ALL-Roadmap).



### A Toxic Mixture: Burnout in Oncology Pharmacy

A recent study published in *HOPA News* found that 61.8 percent of hematology/oncology pharmacists experienced high levels of burnout based on their emotional exhaustion and depersonalization scores on the Maslach Burnout Inventory. Read more, including practical tools and resources, at [acc-cancer.org/oncology-pharmacy-burnout](https://acc-cancer.org/oncology-pharmacy-burnout).



### Precision Medicine Disparities

Two authors of an ACCC/LUNgevity Foundation study discuss clinician needs related to biomarker testing in non-small cell lung cancer, including increased guideline familiarity and practical applications of guideline-concordant testing, as well as how improving patient-clinician discussions and education and how access to appropriate clinical trials can help eliminate disparities. Watch today at [acc-cancer.org/precision-medicine-disparities](https://acc-cancer.org/precision-medicine-disparities).



### Using Telemedicine to Assess Psychosocial Health

A panel of supportive care specialists share practical tips on the use of psychosocial screening tools and how to effectively integrate them into practice. Available online at [acc-cancer.org/telemedicine-for-psychosocial-health](https://acc-cancer.org/telemedicine-for-psychosocial-health).



# fast

## Can Watching Horror Flicks Help Build Resilience?

Researchers at Penn State seem to think so. According to research published in *Personality and Individual Differences*, the more movies about zombie uprisings, alien invasions, and apocalyptic pandemics people had watched pre-COVID-19, the better they dealt with the current pandemic. Their hypothesis: these types of movies can serve as mental rehearsal for actual events.

Source: Scrivner C, et al. Pandemic practice: Horror fans and morbidly curious individuals are more psychologically resilient during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Pers Individ Dif*. 2021 Jan 1;168. doi: 10.1016/j.paid.2020.110397.



## Americans Face Medication Access Challenges That Delay Care

- When patients cannot afford their prescriptions, **29%** admit to abandoning their medications while **52%** seek affordability options through their physician, a labor-intensive process which creates additional work for the provider and can delay time to therapy.
- **55%** of patients reported delays in time to therapy due to a prescribed medication requiring prior authorization.
- **82%** of patients say they spent at least one hour or more making multiple phone calls to track down needed information to begin specialty therapies. As a result of this time-consuming administrative work, nearly 1 in 10 patients reported waiting 8 weeks or more to receive their first dose of therapy.

Source: CoverMyMeds. The 2020 Medication Access Report. [covermymeds.com/main/medication-access-report](https://covermymeds.com/main/medication-access-report).

# facts

## Sticker Shock!

Launch prices of drugs in the U.S. were found to be **186%** to **215%** higher than in Europe (England, Germany, and Switzerland). After launch, prices decreased in **86%** to **90%** of drugs in Europe, compared to decreases in only **19%** of drugs in the U.S.

Source: K. Vokinger et al. Launch prices and price developments of cancer drugs in the United States and Europe. Abstract 2006. ASCO 2020.



## Are We at Risk of a Physician Turnover Epidemic?

- Nearly **70%** of physicians surveyed say they are actively disengaged from their employers.
- **54%** of physicians surveyed said COVID-19 has changed their employment plans.
- Of those **54%**, half (**50%**) are considering leaving for a new healthcare employer, **21%** said they may hang up their white coat for early retirement, and **15%** are thinking about leaving the practice of medicine entirely.

Source: Jackson Physician Search. [jacksonphysiciansearch.com/physician-retention-and-engagement-survey-results](https://jacksonphysiciansearch.com/physician-retention-and-engagement-survey-results).

**30% of hospitals and health systems using revenue cycle automation require 2 or more vendors to manage the process; another 30% have built internal automation teams.**

Source: Alpha Health national survey fielded between May 19, 2020 and June 22, 2020 among 587 chief financial officers and revenue cycle leaders at health systems across the United States. [alphahealth.com](https://alphahealth.com).

## Study Finds Patients Need More Education on Medicare Options

A record-breaking **26.9** million Medicare Advantage enrollees are projected in 2021, but that represents less than half (**42%**) of all Medicare beneficiaries. Millions more Americans may miss out due to a lack of knowledge and awareness around the full menu of Medicare, from Medicare Supplement Insurance (Medigap) and Part D to Medicare Advantage. The study found that:

- **86%** of original Medicare respondents believe Medicare alone provides an out-of-pocket maximum (it does not).
- **65%** of original Medicare beneficiaries do not know that Medicare Advantage plans provide Part A and Part B coverage.
- Only **18%** of original Medicare beneficiaries are “very familiar” with Medicare Advantage plans.
- **31%** of original Medicare beneficiaries are unsure if Medicare Advantage and Medigap are the same thing.

Source: GoHealth. [gohealth.com/a-new-gohealth-study-reports-older-americans-are-familiar-with-original-medicare-but-lack-awareness-understanding-of-the-alternative-option](https://gohealth.com/a-new-gohealth-study-reports-older-americans-are-familiar-with-original-medicare-but-lack-awareness-understanding-of-the-alternative-option).

