

ASK THE EXPERT



PRIMARY CARE EXPERT

Q: What opportunity costs are lost when going to the doctor?

A: 1. Time to schedule an appointment/getting a body on the phone; 2. Travel time to the doctor's office; 3. Time spent in waiting room; 4. Time waiting to be seen once in exam room; 5. Actual face-to-face time with the doctor; 6. Travel time to the pharmacy (if needed); 7. Lost wages to take time off to see the doctor.

A study from Harvard in 2010 showed average "total visit time" for an adult or child seeking care was 121 minutes. It also showed the average cost of one visit was \$75.00 which included an average out-of-pocket expense of \$32.00 and \$43.00 in opportunity costs per visit (based on an average salary). Opportunity costs outweighed actual individual costs per visit in 2010; it is extremely likely these figures are much higher in 2016.

The study also showed that based on the total number of doctor visits in 2010 in the US, the total annual societal cost was 52 billion dollars. The time burden and opportunity cost for employed individuals in 2010 was 1.1 billion hours and 25 billion dollars in opportunity costs to seek medical care. This equals the total annual hours worked for the population of Dallas, Texas.

Consumers have become acutely aware of the VALUE that their health care dollars are providing them. Direct Primary Care provides a solution for every one of the opportunity costs listed above.

Kimberly Legg Corba, D.O.

1150 Glenlivet Drive, Suite A17, Allentown, PA 18106

phone: 610-530-9155

email: drkimcorba@gmail.com

www.greenhillsdirectfamilycare.com



This general information is not intended to provide individual advice. Schedule an appointment with a professional to discuss your particular situation and needs. Questions sent to these professionals may be answered in future issues.