

## Community Health Centers: Best Place to Train Primary Care Doctors



*To the Editor:*

Foderman and Factor made several good suggestions to correct the primary care physician (PCP) shortage.<sup>1</sup> One in particular may be the cynosure of primary care training in the future.

I refer to using community centers as the main teaching site instead of hospitals for PCPs.

Clearly, the role of the PCP has undergone radical change in the past 2 decades. Many no longer care for hospital or nursing home patients. Some no longer practice pediatrics or deliver babies or perform minor office surgery.

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Administrative chores consume about 30% of PCPs' time, leaving them little to see and talk to patients. And the threat of malpractice has made many shy away from treating serious illnesses.

Most of the care provided by PCPs is limited to chronic disease and upper respiratory illnesses and emotional dysfunction.

All of this is better learned in a community health center. It won't solve all the PCP shortage, but it would make PCPs more effective, more available, and, by accomplishing both, would indirectly reduce the shortage.

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### Reference

1. Foderman J, Factor P. Solutions to the primary care physician shortage. *Am J Med.* 2015;128:800-801.