

**McLAUGHLIN & ASSOCIATES
 GEORGIA PHYSICIAN SURVEY
 DECEMBER 11, 2013**

1. ARE YOU A CURRENT MEMBER OF THE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OF GEORGIA, ALSO KNOWN AS MAG?

Total Answering	256
YES	46.5
NO	48.4
DK/REFUSED	5.1

2. HAVE YOU EVER BEEN A MEMBER OF THE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OF GEORGIA, ALSO KNOWN AS MAG?

(AMONG PHYSICIANS WHO REPLIED "NO" OR "DK/REFUSED IN Q1)

Total Answering	137
YES	44.5
NO	49.6
DK/REFUSED	5.8

3. AS A PHYSICIAN, WHO DO YOU TRUST MOST TO REPRESENT YOU?

Total Answering	256
SOCIETIES/INDV. SPECIALTY	64.5
MAG	15.2
OTHER	11.3
DK/REFUSED	9.0

4. FOR EACH OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS, PLEASE SELECT YOUR RESPONSE.

"I AGREE WITH MAG'S POSITION ON SCOPE OF PRACTICE."

(Net Diff. = AGREE-DISAGREE)

Total Answering	256
AGREE	48.4
STRONGLY	24.6
SOMEWHAT	23.8
DISAGREE	12.9
SOMEWHAT	7.0
STRONGLY	5.9
NEITHER	6.2
DK/REFUSED	32.4
Net Diff.	35.5

5. FOR EACH OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS, PLEASE SELECT YOUR RESPONSE.
"I AGREE WITH MAG'S POSITION ON MEDICAID EXPANSION."
(Net Diff. = AGREE-DISAGREE)

Total Answering	256
AGREE	36.7
STRONGLY	17.6
SOMEWHAT	19.1
DISAGREE	19.5
SOMEWHAT	9.0
STRONGLY	10.5
NEITHER	2.0
DK/REFUSED	41.8
Net Diff.	17.2

6. FOR EACH OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS, PLEASE SELECT YOUR RESPONSE.
"MAG OVER REPRESENTS SPECIALISTS TO THE DETRIMENT OF PRIMARY CARE DOCTORS."
(Net Diff. = AGREE-DISAGREE)

Total Answering	256
AGREE	14.5
STRONGLY	7.4
SOMEWHAT	7.0
DISAGREE	42.6
SOMEWHAT	18.4
STRONGLY	24.2
NEITHER	11.7
DK/REFUSED	31.2
Net Diff.	-28.1

7. FOR EACH OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS, PLEASE SELECT YOUR RESPONSE.
"MAG OVER REPRESENTS PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS TO THE DETRIMENT OF SPECIALISTS."
(Net Diff. = AGREE-DISAGREE)

Total Answering	256
AGREE	21.5
STRONGLY	4.7
SOMEWHAT	16.8
DISAGREE	33.2
SOMEWHAT	16.8
STRONGLY	16.4
NEITHER	13.3
DK/REFUSED	32.0
Net Diff.	-11.7

8. FOR EACH OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS, PLEASE SELECT YOUR RESPONSE.
 "MAG TOO OFTEN MAKES POLICY DECISIONS WITHOUT THE INPUT OF ITS MEMBERS."
 (Net Diff. = AGREE-DISAGREE)

Total Answering	256
AGREE	39.5
STRONGLY	16.0
SOMEWHAT	23.4
DISAGREE	19.1
SOMEWHAT	7.0
STRONGLY	12.1
NEITHER	6.2
DK/REFUSED	35.2
Net Diff.	20.3

9. FOR EACH OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS, PLEASE SELECT YOUR RESPONSE.
 "MAG'S STANCE AND ACTIONS REPRESENT MY VIEWS."
 (Net Diff. = AGREE-DISAGREE)

Total Answering	256
AGREE	31.2
STRONGLY	9.4
SOMEWHAT	21.9
DISAGREE	30.9
SOMEWHAT	13.3
STRONGLY	17.6
NEITHER	9.0
DK/REFUSED	28.9
Net Diff.	0.4

10. IN GENERAL, WHICH STATEMENT REFLECTS YOUR VIEWS ON THE CURRENT MEDICAL MALPRACTICE LIABILITY SYSTEM IN GEORGIA?
 1. YOU ARE SATISFIED WITH THE CURRENT MEDICAL MALPRACTICE LIABILITY SYSTEM IN GEORGIA
 2. YOU FAVOR FURTHER REFORMS TO GEORGIA'S MEDICAL MALPRACTICE LIABILITY SYSTEM

Total Answering	256
SATISFIED	8.6
FAVOR REFORMS	83.6
DK/REFUSED	7.8

11. ARE YOU AWARE OR UNAWARE OF THE TORT REPLACEMENT LEGISLATION CALLED THE PATIENTS' COMPENSATION SYSTEM?

Total Answering	256
AWARE	66.8
UNAWARE	27.7
DK/REFUSED	5.5

12. DO YOU SUPPORT OR OPPOSE THE PATIENTS' COMPENSATION SYSTEM?

(AMONG PHYSICIANS WHO ARE AWARE OF PCS, N = 171)

Total Answering	171
SUPPORT	63.2
STRONGLY	25.7
SOMEWHAT	37.4
OPPOSE	28.1
SOMEWHAT	10.5
STRONGLY	17.5
DK/REFUSED	8.8
Net Diff.	35.1

13. WHY DO YOU OPPOSE THE PATIENTS' COMPENSATION SYSTEM?

(ACTUAL VERBATIM RESPONSES)

Total Answering	27
COSTLY/TAX	25.9
IT WILL COST	3.7
PHYSICIANS MORE AND	
INCREASE THE NUMBER OF	
LAWSUITS.	
ITS A TAX ON	3.7
PHYSICIANS	
MAKES THE SYSTEM A LOT	3.7
MORE EXPENSIVE; MORE	
CLAIMS.	
POTENTIAL FOR	3.7
UNFETTERED COSTS IF	
ALL POOR OUTCOMES EARN	
COMPENSATION	
TOO COSTLY	3.7
TOO COSTLY FOR	3.7
PHYSICIANS	
WILL COST MORE	3.7
CLAIMS. MORE CLAIMS	
REPORTED TO NPDB..	
THIS IS TAX ON	
PHYSICIANS. PCS	
SET TO MAKE	
MONEY TO ADMINSTRATE	
IT	
MORE CLAIMS	14.8
IT WILL INCREASE	3.7
COMPLAINTS AGAINST MDS	
MORE CLAIMS. NO JURY.	3.7
TOO MANY UNKNOWNNS;	3.7
SUSPECT WILL	
INCENTIVIZE ADDITIONAL	
FILINGS; ? IMPACT ON	
NPDB	
WILL INCREASE CLAIMS,	3.7
MAY NOT BE LEGAL	
IT WILL INCREASE THE	-
NUMBER OF CLAIMS AND	
COSTS/IS UNPROVEN	
REPORTING TO NPDB AND	-
INCREASED COSTS AND	
NEVER TRIED ANYWHERE	

BEFORE	
NOT BETTER	14.8
DOES NOT SOLVE THE	3.7
PROBLEM, JUST CREATES	
A NEW, MORE COMPLEX,	
MORE EXPENSIVE SYSTEM.	
NOT A PROVEN TRACK	3.7
RECORD. NO GOOD	
OBJECTIVE DATA THAT IS	
PEER REVIEWED HAS BEEN	
PUT FORWARD BY	
PROponents. IF THEY	
CAN SHOW OBJECTIVE,	
UNBIASED DATA THAT IT	
WORKS THEN WOULD BE	
WILLING TO REVIEW AND	
CONSIDER.	
NOT CONVINCED ANY	3.7
BETTER THAN JURY	
WOULD NOT STOP TRIVIAL	3.7
LAWSUITS	
BAD LEGISLATION.	-
OVERSTATED, DEFER TO	-
MY SPECIALTY	
ORGANIZATION THAT	
OPPOSES	
NOT LEGAL	14.8
IT IS	3.7
UNCONSTITUTIONAL.	
IT WILL NOT WITHSTAND	3.7
LEGAL CHALLENGES AND	
IS A COMPLETE WASTE OF	
TIME AND EFFORT	
UNCONSTITUTIONAL	3.7
UNCONSTITUTIONAL, BAD	3.7
FOR DOCTORS	
WORKMAN'S COMP.	3.7
IF THE SYSTEM IS BUILT	3.7
ON WORKERS COMP (WHICH	
ITSELF IS BROKEN) AND	
HAS NO CLEAR TORT	
REFORM ASSOCIATED WITH	
IT, IT BECOMES A	
GUARANTEED PUNITIVE	
AWARD SYSTEM.	
CREATING A SYSTEM AKIN	-
TO WORKMAN'S COMP	
CREATES A BOONDOGGLE	
FOR FOLKS TO TAKE	
ADVANTAGE OF.	
SUSCEPTIBLE TO ABUSE AND	3.7
POLITICAL INFLUENCE.	
WILL NOT TRULY DRIVE	3.7
MALICIOUS AND FRIVOLOUS	
LITIGATION DOWN. DOES	
NOT DISCOURAGE	
ESCALATION OF REVIEW	
UNLESS IT INVOLVES CLEAR	
EVIDENCE OF NEGLIGENCE OR	
CLEAR DEVIATION FROM	
STANDARD OF CARE.	
INJURY IS NOT	3.7
MALPRACTICE AND FORCING	
PHYSICIANS TO PAY FOR	
ALL INJURIES WILL	
INCREASE THE COST OF	

CARE.	
LIMITED PHYSICIAN INPUT	3.7
THE PHYSICIAN IS STILL	3.7
ON THE HOOK AS FAR AS	
REPORTING	
WE NEED TRUE	3.7
CONSTITUTIONAL TORT	
REFORM NOT A PATIENT	
LOTTERY. WE WERE DOING	
WELL BEFORE THE COURT	
STRUCK DOWN MEANINGFUL	
TORT REFORM.	
IT'S A FRONT	3.7
MAY INCREASE THE NUMBER	-
OF SUITS	
MAG'S RESEARCH LEADS TO	-
MY OPPOSITION	
DOES NOT ADEQUATELY	-
REFLECT PLAINTIFFS'	
NEEDS.	
ATTEMPT TO MAKE LAWYERS	-
MAKE MORE MONEY OFF THE	
HEALTHCARE SYSTEM	

14. THE PATIENTS' COMPENSATION SYSTEM WOULD REPEAL AND REPLACE THE CURRENT MEDICAL TORT SYSTEM WITH AN ADMINISTRATION SYSTEM LEGALLY SIMILAR TO WORKERS' COMPENSATION. PATIENTS WOULD FILE AN APPLICATION WHEREIN AN OUTSIDE MEDICAL EXPERT PANEL WOULD REVIEW THE TREATMENT TO DECIDE IF THERE WAS A MEDICAL INJURY. IF THERE IS NEGLIGENCE, THEN THE PATIENT GETS AWARDED FAIR COMPENSATION BASED ON A PREDETERMINED SCHEDULE. THE NET RESULT IS THAT PHYSICIANS WOULD HAVE NO PERSONAL FINANCIAL LIABILITY, WOULD NEVER BE SUED AGAIN, WOULD NOT BE BLAMED IN ANY WAY AND WILL NEVER HAVE TO TESTIFY AND GIVE A DEPOSITION AS A RESULT OF ANY MEDICAL MALPRACTICE ACTION. KNOWING THIS, DO YOU SUPPORT OR OPPOSE REPEALING AND REPLACING THE CURRENT MEDICAL TORT SYSTEM WITH THE PATIENTS' COMPENSATION

Total Answering	256
SUPPORT	74.6
STRONGLY	40.6
SOMEWHAT	34.0
OPPOSE	19.1
SOMEWHAT	7.4
STRONGLY	11.7
DK/REFUSED	6.2
Net Diff.	55.5

15. BELOW ARE TWO DIFFERENT HEALTHCARE PROPOSALS. PLEASE SELECT THE OPTION YOU PREFER MOST.

1. (OPTION A) IS A PATIENT COMPENSATION SYSTEM, WHERE PATIENTS WHO ARE VICTIMS OF MALPRACTICE SUBMIT THEIR CLAIMS TO AN INDEPENDENT PANEL OF EXPERTS AND ARE AWARDED DAMAGES BASED ON THE MEDICAL FACTS AND THEIR LOST PAY AND DAMAGES. IT'S LESS COMPLICATED AND BENEFITS ARE AWARDED WITHIN WEEKS...

2. (OPTION B) IS A MORE COMPLICATED COURT-BASED SYSTEM, WHERE PATIENTS WHO ARE THE VICTIMS OF MALPRACTICE AND INJURED BY DOCTORS WILL SUE DOCTORS IN A COURT OF LAW, AND IF SUCCESSFUL, MAY BE AWARDED DAMAGES BY A JURY UP TO SEVEN YEARS LATER. PHYSICIANS WOULD STILL HAVE TO HIRE LAWYERS, TESTIFY IN COURT AND DEFEND THEMSELVES.

Total Answering	256
OPTION A	79.3
OPTION B	10.9
DK/REFUSED	9.8

16. ARE YOU AWARE OR UNAWARE THAT THE PATIENTS' COMPENSATION SYSTEM IS STRONGLY OPPOSED BY MAG MUTUAL WHO IS CURRENTLY MAKING OVER 50% IN PRE-TAX PROFITS IN THE CURRENT SYSTEM?

Total Answering	256
AWARE	42.2
UNAWARE	52.0
DK/REFUSED	5.9

17. ARE YOU AWARE OR UNAWARE THAT MAG OPPOSES THE PATIENTS' COMPENSATION SYSTEM?

Total Answering	256
AWARE	44.1
UNAWARE	51.6
DK/REFUSED	4.3

18. ARE YOU AWARE OR UNAWARE THAT ONLY MAG MUTUAL REPRESENTATIVES WERE AT THE MAG BOARD MEETING WHEN PRESENTED WITH THE PATIENTS' COMPENSATION SYSTEM AND THAT MEMBERS OF PCS WERE DENIED ATTENDENCE?

Total Answering	256
AWARE	8.6
UNAWARE	83.6
DK/REFUSED	7.8

19. ARE YOU AWARE OR UNAWARE THAT MAG FINANCIALLY RELIES ON MAG MUTUAL?

Total Answering	256
AWARE	39.8
UNAWARE	54.7
DK/REFUSED	5.5

20. ARE YOU AWARE OR UNAWARE THAT FOUR BOARD MEMBERS OF MAG ARE PAID BY MAG MUTUAL AND VOTED TO OPPOSE THE PATIENTS' COMPENSATION SYSTEM?

Total Answering	256
AWARE	16.8
UNAWARE	79.3
DK/REFUSED	3.9

21. SINCE FOUR MAG BOARD MEMBERS ARE PAID BY MAG MUTUAL, DO YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE THAT THIS IS A CONFLICT OF INTEREST AND THAT THESE MAG BOARD MEMBERS SHOULD HAVE ABSTAINED?
(Net Diff. = AGREE-DISAGREE)

Total Answering	256
AGREE	84.8
STRONGLY	64.5
SOMEWHAT	20.3
DISAGREE	7.8
SOMEWHAT	2.7
STRONGLY	5.1
NEITHER	3.9
DK/REFUSED	3.5
Net Diff.	77.0

22. HERE ARE SOME ARGUMENTS THAT SUPPORT REPEALING AND REPLACING THE CURRENT MEDICAL TORT SYSTEM WITH THE PATIENTS' COMPENSATION SYSTEM. PLEASE SELECT WHETHER THE STATEMENT MAKES YOU DEFINITELY MORE LIKELY, MUCH MORE LIKELY OR SOMEWHAT MORE LIKELY TO SUPPORT THE PATIENTS' COMPENSATION SYSTEM. IF IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE, JUST SAY SO.
"POLICIES AND PROCEDURES OF THE PATIENTS' COMPENSATION SYSTEM WILL PREVENT PAYMENT FOR FRIVOLOUS LAWSUITS AND FRAUD."

Total Answering	256
MORE LIKELY	75.4
DEFINITELY MORE	37.1
MUCH MORE	17.2
SOMEWHAT MORE	21.1
NO DIFFERENCE	12.5
DK/REFUSED	12.1

23. HERE ARE SOME ARGUMENTS THAT SUPPORT REPEALING AND REPLACING THE CURRENT MEDICAL TORT SYSTEM WITH THE PATIENTS' COMPENSATION SYSTEM. PLEASE SELECT WHETHER THE STATEMENT MAKES YOU DEFINITELY MORE LIKELY, MUCH MORE LIKELY OR SOMEWHAT MORE LIKELY TO SUPPORT THE PATIENTS' COMPENSATION SYSTEM. IF IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE, JUST SAY SO.
"THE PATIENTS' COMPENSATION SYSTEM PROVIDES AN ENVIRONMENT FOR DOCTORS AND HOSPITALS TO BE TRANSPARENT ABOUT MISTAKES. IT IS A NO BLAME SYSTEM."

Total Answering	256
MORE LIKELY	75.4
DEFINITELY MORE	35.2
MUCH MORE	22.7
SOMEWHAT MORE	17.6
NO DIFFERENCE	12.9
DK/REFUSED	11.7

24. HERE ARE SOME ARGUMENTS THAT SUPPORT REPEALING AND REPLACING THE CURRENT MEDICAL TORT SYSTEM WITH THE PATIENTS' COMPENSATION SYSTEM. PLEASE SELECT WHETHER THE STATEMENT MAKES YOU DEFINITELY MORE LIKELY, MUCH MORE LIKELY OR SOMEWHAT MORE LIKELY TO SUPPORT THE PATIENTS' COMPENSATION SYSTEM. IF IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE, JUST SAY SO.

"PHYSICIANS WILL NOT NEED TO HIRE LAWYERS SINCE THERE WILL BE NO LAWSUITS TO DEFEND."

Total Answering	256
MORE LIKELY	74.6
DEFINITELY MORE	35.9
MUCH MORE	19.1
SOMEWHAT MORE	19.5
NO DIFFERENCE	14.8
DK/REFUSED	10.5

25. HERE ARE SOME ARGUMENTS THAT SUPPORT REPEALING AND REPLACING THE CURRENT MEDICAL TORT SYSTEM WITH THE PATIENTS' COMPENSATION SYSTEM. PLEASE SELECT WHETHER THE STATEMENT MAKES YOU DEFINITELY MORE LIKELY, MUCH MORE LIKELY OR SOMEWHAT MORE LIKELY TO SUPPORT THE PATIENTS' COMPENSATION SYSTEM. IF IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE, JUST SAY SO.

"THE PATIENTS' COMPENSATION SYSTEM TAKES AWAY THE MONEY WASTED ON ATTORNEYS AND INSURANCE COMPANIES AND GIVES MORE COMPENSATION TO MORE PATIENTS MORE QUICKLY. IN THE CURRENT SYSTEM, ONLY 15% OF PHYSICIANS' PREMIUMS ARE ACTUALLY AWARDED TO PATIENTS AND THE REST GOES TO LAWYERS AND INSURANCE COSTS."

Total Answering	256
MORE LIKELY	78.5
DEFINITELY MORE	42.6
MUCH MORE	19.9
SOMEWHAT MORE	16.0
NO DIFFERENCE	9.0
DK/REFUSED	12.5

26. HERE ARE SOME ARGUMENTS THAT SUPPORT REPEALING AND REPLACING THE CURRENT MEDICAL TORT SYSTEM WITH THE PATIENTS' COMPENSATION SYSTEM. PLEASE SELECT WHETHER THE STATEMENT MAKES YOU DEFINITELY MORE LIKELY, MUCH MORE LIKELY OR SOMEWHAT MORE LIKELY TO SUPPORT THE PATIENTS' COMPENSATION SYSTEM. IF IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE, JUST SAY SO.

"THIS LEGISLATION REQUIRES THAT PAYMENTS TO PATIENTS WILL NOT BE REPORTED TO THE GEORGIA COMPOSITE BOARD OR THE NATIONAL PRACTITIONER DATABANK."

Total Answering	256
MORE LIKELY	64.1
DEFINITELY MORE	33.2
MUCH MORE	16.4
SOMEWHAT MORE	14.5
NO DIFFERENCE	17.2
DK/REFUSED	18.8

27. AFTER EVERYTHING YOU JUST READ, DO YOU SUPPORT OR OPPOSE REPLACING THE CURRENT MEDICAL MALPRACTICE LIABILITY SYSTEM WITH THE PATIENTS' COMPENSATION SYSTEM?

Total Answering	256
SUPPORT	75.0
STRONGLY	44.5
SOMEWHAT	30.5
OPPOSE	14.8
SOMEWHAT	3.5
STRONGLY	11.3
DK/REFUSED	10.2
Net Diff.	60.2

28. DO YOU AGREE WITH MAG'S POSITION TO OPPOSE THE PATIENTS' COMPENSATION SYSTEM?
(Net Diff. = AGREE-DISAGREE)

Total Answering	256
AGREE	16.4
STRONGLY	9.8
SOMEWHAT	6.6
DISAGREE	68.8
SOMEWHAT	21.5
STRONGLY	47.3
NEITHER	8.2
DK/REFUSED	6.6
Net Diff.	-52.3

29. ARE YOU CURRENTLY PRACTICING MEDICINE

Total Answering	256
YES	93.8
NO	6.2
DK/REFUSED	-

30. WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING BEST DESCRIBES YOUR SPECIALTY? IF YOU SPECIALIZE IN MULTIPLE DISCIPLINES, PLEASE SELECT THE ONE THAT REPRESENTS THE MAJORITY OF YOUR PRACTICE TIME.

Total Answering	256
FAMILY PRACTICE	8.2
INTERNAL MEDICINE, GENERAL	8.2
OBSTETRICS / GYNECOLOGY	6.6
ANESTHESIOLOGY	5.9
PEDIATRICS, GENERAL	5.5
SURGERY, GENERAL	5.5
ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY	5.1
NEUROLOGY	3.5
PATHOLOGY	3.5
RADIOLOGY	3.5
GASTROENTEROLOGY	3.1
PLASTIC SURGERY	3.1
PSYCHIATRY (ADULT)	3.1
OTHER	3.1
EMERGENCY MEDICINE	2.7
OPHTHALMOLOGY	2.7
OTOLARYNGOLOGY	2.7
NEPHROLOGY	2.3
INFECTIOUS DISEASES	2.0
PULMONARY MEDICINE	2.0
UROLOGY	2.0
ENDOCRINOLOGY	1.6
HOSPITALIST	1.6
PEDIATRICS, SUBSPECIALTY	1.6
PSYCHIATRY (CHILD AND ADOLESCENT)	1.6
NEUROSURGERY	1.2
PREVENTIVE MEDICINE	1.2
ADMINISTRATION	0.8
CARDIOLOGY	0.8
PHYSICAL MEDICINE & REHABILITATION	0.8
PRIMARY CARE	0.8
RHEUMATOLOGY	0.8
ADDICTIONOLOGY	0.4
CARDIOTHORACIC SURGERY	0.4
COLON AND RECTAL SURGERY	0.4
DERMATOLOGY	0.4
HEMATOLOGY / ONCOLOGY	0.4
ONCOLOGY	0.4
RADIATION ONCOLOGY	0.4
SPORTS MEDICINE	0.4

31. GENDER:

Total Answering	256
MALE	80.1
FEMALE	19.9

32. AGE:

Total Answering	256
UNDER 25	-
25-34	1.2
35-44	16.0
45-54	33.2
55-65	32.8
OVER 65	16.8
Mean	54.89