

FAST FACTS



DIRECT PRIMARY CARE (DPC)



PALMETTO
PROMISE
INSTITUTE

Direct Primary Care (DPC) is an innovative healthcare model being embraced by patients, providers, employers, and policymakers across the United States. DPC offers a unique, affordable membership-based approach that enables patients to establish ongoing relationships with their physicians. Patients visit a “primary care home” for all routine and preventive services, including check-ups, urgent care, and chronic care management. Most notably, patients receive unrestricted access to *unhurried* primary care, essential for the patient’s wellbeing and the ongoing maintenance of health.



Nationally, **1/3** of physicians now claim they will not accept new Medicaid patients.



Last year, **2/3** of Medicaid patients had difficulty obtaining an appointment.



Nationally, **11%** of those with private coverage had trouble booking an appointment.

THE SOLUTION: DIRECT PRIMARY CARE

Individuals pay a low monthly fee for unlimited access to their physician.

WHY DPC?

DIRECT PRIMARY CARE BENEFITS



Radiology and labs at deeply discounted cost



24/7 access via text, phone, email, video chat



Medications dispensed at clinic at wholesale prices



Same-day or next-day appointments



Free diagnostic testing, labwork drawn on-site



Unhurried appointments



Access to your medical records



Monthly billing, no long-term commitments



House calls and after-hours visits (additional fee)



No scheduling fees or co-pays

THE DIRECT PRIMARY CARE DIFFERENCE

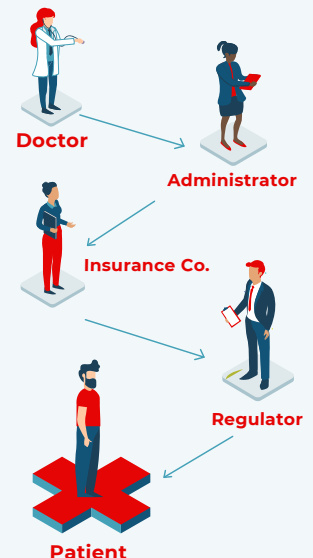
DIRECT PRIMARY CARE

vs

CONVENTIONAL CARE



Doctor → Patient





DIRECT PRIMARY CARE DOCTOR TESTIMONIAL

“Direct Primary Care is the old-school way of doing medicine. The advantage to the physician is that you’re a doctor again. You’re not a hamster in the wheel trying to get through patients, getting paid according to doctor’s contracts. You don’t have to ‘churn-n-burn’ or ‘treat-n-street’ patients. As a physician, it gives me that satisfaction that I’m doing what’s right for the patient.”

— Dr. Jerome Aya-Ay, Palmetto Proactive Healthcare, Spartanburg, SC



COMMON QUESTIONS

Isn’t Direct Primary Care, which allows people to pay upfront for medical care, only for the wealthy?

No. Direct Primary Care (DPC) provides all patients, especially those operating on limited income, with a medical team dedicated to providing unrestricted access to expert primary care. Patients, employers, or insurers pay a monthly fee—ranging from as low as \$40 to an economical \$80—directly to the DPC practice, which covers the majority of care needs. These monthly payments can sometimes cost low-income patients less than they would be paying in co-pays and premiums under an expanded Medicaid program.

Isn’t Direct Primary Care only for basic check-ups?

No. Patients go to their primary care doctor for all routine and preventive services, which include checkups, along with expansive services like screenings, urgent care, and chronic care management. In fact, DPC can address up to 90% of a patient’s healthcare needs.

Even though I’d be paying a monthly fee for these Direct Primary Care services, won’t other costs like imaging or trips to the emergency room cause my costs to skyrocket?

No. Because patients maintain a personal relationship with their primary care physician, the DPC clinic is where they would first seek treatment for their healthcare needs—not the ER. DPC can diminish dependence on more expensive parts of the system, such as surgeries, specialty care, urgent care, emergency rooms,

advanced imaging, and hospitals. In fact, DPC practices lower surgical costs to one-sixth traditional pricing and one-tenth the patient costs of traditional insurance.

Is a Direct Primary Care arrangement legal under Affordable Care Act requirements, and are there any actual providers in South Carolina?

Yes! DPC can fill a void in healthcare access for those who cannot afford traditional insurance. By retaining a high-deductible, catastrophic plan, individuals may comply with the Affordable Care Act’s insurance mandate and be free to enter into a DPC arrangement for all of their non-catastrophic care. Currently, there are DPC clinics in every major metropolitan area of South Carolina, but they need the reassurance of legislation that will enable them continue to safely practice, and new providers need assurances that they are welcome to begin practicing in the state and the rules aren’t going to suddenly change.

Direct Primary Care Clinics Across SC



Source: dpcfrontier.com