



The FutureDocs Forecasting Model: It's A Tool Not an Answer


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What makes our model different in 2 slides: Slide 1

- **Starts with different question:** what services will patients need versus how many doctors will we need?
- **Employs new methodology-** plasticity matrix maps services provided by physicians in different specialties to patients' visits
- **Uses different geography:** state and sub-state data allow you to see local workforce challenges
- **Seeks different outcome:** designed to engage stakeholders (you!) in using data to develop policy

Access the model here: <https://www2.shepscenter.unc.edu/workforce>




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What makes our model different in 2 slides: Slide 2

Mindset — it's a tool, not an answer. Interactive data format allows you to choose from:

- **3 models** — supply, utilization, relative capacity (a.k.a. "surplus/shortage")
- **3 types of visualizations** — maps, line charts and population pyramids
- **3 geographic views** — national, state and sub-state level
- **5+ alternate futures** — "what if" scenarios regarding ACA implementation, physician FTEs, retirement, use of NPs and PAs, and redistributing graduate medical education (GME)





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We turn workforce modeling upside down

- Model does not produce estimate of **counts of physicians needed** by specialty
- Instead, it asks: what are patients' needs for care **and how can those needs be met (or not!) by different workforce configurations in different geographies?**





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