

**Comment from Coalition for Patients' Rights  
Posted on Washington Post Discussion Board  
In Response to Article, "Fixing Health Care Starts With the Doctors"  
June 10, 2009**

Coalition for Patients' Rights comment:

If we really want to fix America's overpriced and under-performing healthcare system, we need to tap into the broad spectrum of health professions -- who are not doctors of medicine or osteopathy.

Healthcare providers other than MDs or DOs are well-prepared to provide a diverse array of safe, high-quality and cost-effective services to meet the growing healthcare needs of Americans. In fact, many of these professions evolved to fill gaps in healthcare services and to provide other benefits not offered by MDs or DOs, including a higher degree of personalized care, specialty services, greater accessibility and increased affordability.

Patients have a choice in healthcare providers and doctors should not always be the default provider for healthcare.

With increasing demands on the healthcare system – including an aging population, healthcare provider shortages, spiraling costs and more than 45 million uninsured Americans – all healthcare professions are essential in order to advance the health and well-being of patients.

To learn more, visit the Coalition for Patients' Rights at [www.patientsrightscoalition.org](http://www.patientsrightscoalition.org).