



**From: Katherine Patterson, Public Policy Polling**

**To: Interested Parties**

**Subject: Majority of Californians Think Restrictions on Access to Cancer Hospitals Unfair; Believe Access to Specialty Centers is Very Important**

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A new Public Policy Polling survey finds that a large majority of Californians (81%) believe it is unfair that many health plans do not allow access to care at specialty cancer hospitals, while just 7% think it is fair. A further 82% think it is very important for people with cancer to have access to specialized expertise or treatments that are not available through the in-network cancer doctors under their insurance plans.

Three-in-four voters (76%) also believe that better cancer care would be delivered in hospitals that specialize in treating only cancer patients, while only 9% feel that better cancer care would be delivered in a community hospital treating all kinds of conditions.

Other key findings in the survey include:

- 91% would rather receive treatment from a doctor who treats cancer patients full-time as a specialist rather than a doctor who treats cancer patients sometimes but also provides care to patients with other conditions.
- 93% agree, with 80% in strong agreement, that insurance plans should be required to allow patients to go outside the hospital network set up by that plan to seek care where the best treatment is available. Just 2% disagree.
- 85% believe patients with advanced or other untreatable cancers should be allowed to participate in clinical trials with experimental drugs, even though there are risks involved. Just 5% disagree.
- 62% of Californians have been affected by cancer, either personally or having a family member diagnosed.

Public Policy Polling surveyed 1,140 California voters from September 17-18, 2020. The margin of error is +/- 2.9%. 50% of interviews for the survey were conducted by telephone and 50% by text message.

