

Patients are losing access to the primary care providers of their choice and Oregon small businesses are suffering.

YES on HB 3439!

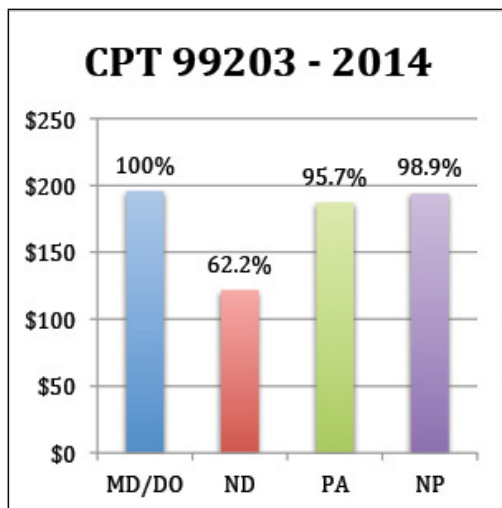
Oregon has an ongoing shortage of primary care providers.

The state and federal government spends nearly \$60 million every biennium to incentivize and retain PCPs in underserved areas of the state. This includes payments to Naturopathic Doctors (NDs), who are trained as primary care physicians and regulated in Oregon since 1927.

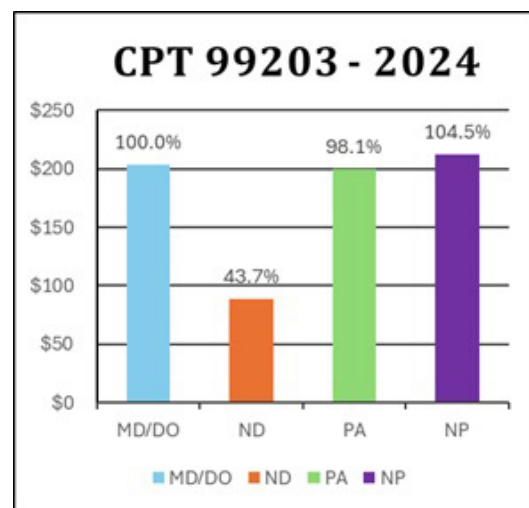
- There are 1,200 licensed Oregon NDs (ask us for your local ND!).
- Naturopathic Physicians have completed a 4-year, science-based graduate medical program.
- Average debt-load for a graduate of NUNM, an accredited university is \$250,000; you must already have your Bachelor's Degree, as well.
- Residencies exist and are accredited, but must be paid for privately - exacerbating the access issue.

SUPPORT REASONABLE REIMBURSEMENT PARITY, NOT DISPARITY

In Oregon we are seeing increasing gaps for the same billing codes. We need statutory protections or Oregonians will lose access to care.



In 2014, we examined the All payers, All claims (APAC) data directly from the OHA and found that Naturopathic Physicians were consistently reimbursed at only 62% of billing.



Ten years later, we reviewed the data from one payer and discovered that Naturopathic Physicians were consistently reimbursed at less than 44% of billing.

¹ CPT Code 99203 is the billing code for a patient's initial appointment, always consisting of 3 components: detailed history, detailed examination & low-complexity medical decision.