

Seven Recommendations from the American College of Physicians to Address Administrative Burden

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Too much administrative work can have "serious adverse consequences" for both physicians and patients, concludes the American College of Physicians (ACP) in a [position paper](#) published May 2, 2017, in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*. The paper outlined seven recommendations to address the issue of excessive administrative tasks and mitigate or eliminate their adverse effects. First, ACP recommended that external stakeholders, such as the government, provide impact statements about the issue. The second recommendation calls for review of what administrative tasks could be safely removed. The third recommendation is for increased collaboration between professional societies, physicians, and stakeholders, including public and private payers. Recommendation number four is to use innovative approaches to streamline administrative tasks. Fifth, stakeholders should review whether they can streamline or eliminate duplicative tasks. The sixth recommendation is that rigorous research be conducted on the effect administrative tasks have on quality, cost, and patient outcomes (the last of which ACP said is the most important). The final recommendation calls for research about best practices for clinicians to reduce administrative burden.

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