

Dentistry, of course, is an important part of health care. **Dental care, though, is different from medical care.** These differences must be reflected in plan design, benefits, and legislation so that costly, inappropriate regulation does not result in employers dropping dental benefits.

Primary Care

 General **dentists** provide 90% of dental care and account for 80% of total dental costs.

 For **medical**, secondary & tertiary care are most common, & primary care is the smallest component and cost.

About **79%** of **dentists** are in solo practice.



Solo Practice

Less than **10%** of **physicians** are in solo practice



Many **dental services** may be repeated if a satisfactory result is not achieved.



Procedures

80% of **dentists** are general dentists. The American Dental Association recognizes only 8 specialties with no sub-specialties.



General Practice

Less than **15%** of **physicians** are primary care physicians.



Many **medical procedures** are irreversible.



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