APPENDIX: Survey Instrument
Source: Lynch and Hadler Survey, 2014

Citizen Attitudes Toward Tiered Access to Physician Providers
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[Randomize polarity of response options for all questions with ordered response categories]
[Part I: Introduction]
This survey asks for your opinions about some aspects of our health care system and how health care is provided. Your answers are completely confidential. The researchers never have access to any information that could link your identity to specific answers. You may stop the survey at any time, but we hope that you will want to answer all of the questions. We really value your opinions! The survey should take about 15 minutes to complete.

Now, let's get started.

[Q1] The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA), sometimes known as Obamacare, was passed in 2010. Do you have a generally favorable or generally unfavorable opinion of this law?
 1=very favorable
 2=favorable
 3=neither favorable nor unfavorable
 4=unfavorable
 5=very unfavorable

 [Q2] Under the ACA, has the cost of health care for you and your family gotten higher than it was before 2010, gotten lower, or stayed about the same?
 1=Higher
 2=Lower
 3=Stayed about the same

Please say whether you personally agree or disagree with the following statements:

 [Q3] Our society should do whatever is necessary to make sure that everyone has an equal opportunity to succeed.
 1= agree strongly
 2= agree somewhat
 3= neither agree nor disagree
 4= disagree somewhat
 5= disagree strongly.

 [Q4] We have gone too far in pushing equal rights in this country.
 1= agree strongly
 2= agree somewhat

3= neither agree nor disagree
4= disagree somewhat
5= disagree strongly.

[Q6] This country would be better off if we worried less about how equal people are.
1= agree strongly
2= agree somewhat
3= neither agree nor disagree
4= disagree somewhat
5= disagree strongly.

[Q7] It is not really that big a problem if some people have more of a chance in life than others.
1= agree strongly
2= agree somewhat
3= neither agree nor disagree
4= disagree somewhat
5= disagree strongly.

[Q8] If people were treated more equally in this country we would have many fewer problems.
1= agree strongly
2= agree somewhat
3= neither agree nor disagree
4= disagree somewhat
5= disagree strongly.

[Q9] One of the big problems in this country is that we don't give everyone an equal chance.
1= agree strongly
2= agree somewhat
3= neither agree nor disagree
4= disagree somewhat
5= disagree strongly.

[Q10] Which one of the following three statements comes closest to your own opinion about the right way to organize health care in our country?
1= Health care services are 'private goods' that people should buy somewhat like cars and televisions, and based on what they want and can afford.
2= Basic health care services should be available to all, like public education, but people who can afford to should be able to buy more or better care, similar to paying for private schools.
3= All effective health care services should be universally available, provided to everyone as a right and based on the services they need. There are a number of possible reasons why health care costs are rising.

[Block randomize respondents to receive one of three scenarios (outpatient routine, outpatient acute, inpatient) and, independently, to one of three insurance conditions (Bronze, Platinum, Medicaid).]

On the next screens, you will read some information about health insurance programs. You may or may not know this information already. You will need to know this before you answer the questions in the second part of the survey. Please read the information carefully and do your best to remember it.

FACTS ABOUT HEALTH INSURANCE

In this survey, some of the questions will be about
[if insurance=Bronze or Platinum:] private health insurance plans purchased on health insurance exchanges run by the state and federal governments.
[if insurance=Medicaid:] Medicaid, a public insurance plan purchased by people who earn less than the income cut-off specified by the state they live in.

[If insurance=Bronze or Platinum:]
There are four different levels of private insurance plans offered on the health insurance exchanges: Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum.
[If insurance=Bronze:] Bronze plans have the lowest monthly premiums, but patients may pay higher out-of-pocket costs for things like prescription refills or office visits even when they are covered by insurance. Government subsidies are available to help people who cannot afford to pay the full cost of Bronze insurance plans.
[If insurance=Platinum:] Platinum plans have the highest monthly premiums, but patients may pay lower out-of-pocket costs. Platinum plans may also cover types of care that other plans will not pay for.

[If insurance=Medicaid:] Medicaid insurance has different names in different states. In [R's state], it is usually known as Medicaid [or state name 1][or state name 2]. The monthly insurance premiums for Medicaid are lower than those for private insurance. In some states, people with Medicaid insurance pay no monthly premium. Out-of-pocket costs for services that are covered by Medicaid also tend to be lower than for private insurance. Some services that are covered by private insurance plans are not covered by Medicaid.

Please answer the next question as best you can. If you'd like, you may go back and read the information again before you answer the questions.
[Provide button to return to top of section]

[If insurance=Bronze or Platinum:]
[Q11a:] Bronze plans usually have higher premiums than Platinum plans.
 1=True
 2=False

[If insurance=Medicaid:]

[Q11b:] Medicaid plans usually have higher premiums than private insurance.
 1=True
 2=False

[SHOW CORRECT ANSWER AFTER R HAS RESPONDED. If R has answered correctly, move on to Part II. If R answered incorrectly, show Q11b again until R responds correctly.]

Now you are ready to begin the next part of the survey.

[Part II: Scenarios]

Now we'd like you to consider a patient, Michael Arnold (not his real name). Michael is 51 years old, and works full time. He has a [Bronze/Platinum/ Medicaid] insurance plan.

Michael has congestive heart failure. Congestive heart failure is a chronic condition that means your heart muscle doesn't pump blood as well as it should.

Michael's insurance will only cover the costs for him to see a doctor if a nurse practitioner could not provide the same care.

Nurse practitioners have advanced degrees and are licensed to provide many of the same kinds of medical care as doctors provide. It costs less for the same care when it is provided by a nurse practitioner compared to a doctor. This is partly because nurses have 6-10 years of medical training, compared to 8-14 years for doctors.

[SCENARIO 1: Outpatient routine]
Michael needs regular check-ups to monitor his heart condition in his doctor's office. At a scheduled check-up appointment, Michael is treated by a nurse practitioner. The nurse practitioner asks him about his symptoms, adjusts his medications, and orders some routine tests, after letting the doctor know that Michael has an appointment and that he is doing well.

[Q12a] Do you think that it is a good thing or a bad thing that Michael was treated by a nurse practitioner rather than a doctor for this appointment?
 1= Definitely a good thing
 2= Possibly a good thing
 3= Possibly a bad thing
 4= Definitely a bad thing

Now please say how likely you think it is that the following statements are true. There are no right or wrong answers.

[Q13a] If Michael had been cared for by a doctor at this visit, he would have received better care.
 1=Very unlikely
 2=Somewhat unlikely
 3=Somewhat likely
 4=Very likely

Please choose the response option that comes closest to your own view:

 [Q14a] Patients like Michael who have [Bronze/Platinum/Medicaid] insurance should be able to choose whether they want to be treated by a doctor or a nurse practitioner when they have a medical visit like this one.
1=Strongly agree
2=Agree somewhat
3=Disagree somewhat
4=Strongly disagree

 [Q15a] Which kind of provider would you personally prefer if you had a medical visit like this one?
1= Definitely would prefer to see a doctor
2= Might prefer to see a doctor
3= Might prefer to see a nurse practitioner
4= Definitely would prefer to see a nurse practitioner
5= Don⌐t care one way or the other
[SCENARIO 2]
One day, Michael has a flare-up of his heart condition that requires urgent attention in his doctor's medical office. He schedules an appointment that day and is treated by a nurse practitioner. The nurse practitioner asks him about his symptoms, adjusts his medications, and orders some tests. The nurse informs the doctor in the office that Michael's symptoms have changed, and checks to make sure they agree on the treatment plan.

 [Q12b] Do you think that it is a good thing or a bad thing that Michael was treated by a nurse practitioner rather than a doctor for this appointment?
 1= Definitely a good thing
 2= Possibly a good thing
 4= Possibly a bad thing
 5= Definitely a bad thing

Now please say how likely you think it is that the following statements are true. There are no right or wrong answers. We just want to know your best guess.
[Randomize polarity of response options]

 [Q13b] If Michael had been cared for by a doctor at this visit, he would have received better care.

1=Very unlikely
2=Somewhat unlikely
3=Somewhat likely
4=Very likely

Please choose the response option that comes closest to your own view:

[Q14b] Patients like Michael who have [Bronze/Platinum/Medicaid] insurance should be able to choose whether they want to be treated by a doctor or a nurse practitioner when they have a medical visit like this one.
1= Strongly agree
2= Agree somewhat
3= Disagree somewhat
4= Strongly disagree

[Q15b] Which kind of provider would you personally prefer if you had a medical visit like this one?
1= Definitely would prefer to see a doctor
2= Might prefer to see a doctor
3= Might prefer to see a nurse practitioner
4= Definitely would prefer to see a nurse practitioner
5= Don't care one way or the other
[SCENARIO 3]
One day, Michael's heart condition worsens and he is taken to the hospital for emergency open-heart surgery. After the surgery, Michael is transferred to the hospital's intensive care unit (ICU) to recover. In the ICU Michael is treated by a nurse practitioner. The nurse practitioner asks Michael about his symptoms, adjusts his medications, and orders tests as needed. Once a day the nurse informs the surgeon who operated on Michael if Michael's symptoms have changed, and checks to make sure they agree on the treatment plan.

[Q12c] Do you think that it is a good thing or a bad thing that Michael was treated by a nurse practitioner rather than a doctor during his stay in the ICU?
1= Definitely a good thing
2= Possibly a good thing
4= Possibly a bad thing
5= Definitely a bad thing

Now please say how likely you think it is that the following statements are true. There are no right or wrong answers.

[Q13c] If Michael had been cared for by a doctor in the ICU, he would have received better care.
1=Very unlikely
2=Somewhat unlikely
3=Somewhat likely
4=Very likely

Please choose the response option that comes closest to your own view:

[Q14c] Patients like Michael who have [Bronze/Platinum/Medicaid] insurance should be able to choose whether they want to be treated by a doctor or a nurse practitioner when they have a hospital stay like this one.
 1= Strongly agree
 2= Agree somewhat
 3= Disagree somewhat
 4= Strongly disagree

[Q15c] Which kind of provider would you personally prefer if you had a hospital stay like this one?
 1= Definitely would prefer to see a doctor
 2= Might prefer to see a doctor
 3= Might prefer to see a nurse practitioner
 4= Definitely would prefer to see a nurse practitioner
 5= Don't care one way or the other
[end scenarios]

Here are some things that Michael's insurer might do so that all patients like Michael can always be treated by a doctor
 [If scenario=1: at regular follow-up visits for heart conditions]
 [If scenario=2: at urgent visits for heart conditions]
 [If scenario=3: in the ICU after heart surgery].
For each one, please say if you think this would be a good thing to do or not.

[Randomize polarity of response options so that each respondent sees the same polarity for all Q16-Q19, but different respondents see different polarities]

 [Q16] Increase insurance premiums for all patients
 1= Definitely a good thing
 2= Possibly a good thing
 4= Possibly a bad thing
 5= Definitely a bad thing

[Q17] Have all patients wait longer to see a specialist for visits that are not emergencies
 1= Definitely a good thing
 2= Possibly a good thing
 4= Possibly a bad thing
 5= Definitely a bad thing

[Q18] Increase the amount all patients pay out-of-pocket for their medications
 1= Definitely a good thing
 2= Possibly a good thing

4= Possibly a bad thing
5= Definitely a bad thing

[Q19] Increase the amount all patients pay out-of-pocket for each visit to the medical office
[YES/NO]
1= Definitely a good thing
2= Possibly a good thing
4= Possibly a bad thing
5= Definitely a bad thing

Here are some things the government could do so that all patients like Michael can always be treated by a doctor
[If scenario=1: at regular follow-up visits for heart conditions]
[If scenario=2: at urgent visits for heart conditions]
[If scenario=3: in the ICU after heart surgery].
For each one, please say if you think this would be a good thing to do or not.

[Randomize polarity of response options so that each respondent sees the same polarity for all Q20-Q21, but different respondents see different polarities]

[Q20] Cut back subsidies for health insurance for people with low incomes so that there is more money to pay for doctors
1= Definitely a good thing
2= Possibly a good thing
4= Possibly a bad thing
5= Definitely a bad thing

[Q21] Raise taxes so that there is more money to pay for doctors
1= Definitely a good thing
2= Possibly a good thing
4= Possibly a bad thing
5= Definitely a bad thing

Care provided by a nurse practitioner costs less than the same care when a doctor provides it. To keep insurance costs down for everyone AND allow patients like Michael to choose to be treated by doctors
[If scenario=1: at regular follow-up visits for heart conditions]
[If scenario=2: at urgent visits for heart conditions]
[If scenario=3: in the ICU after heart surgery], something else has to change.

[randomize order of response options for Q22, Q23]

[Q22] Which of the changes below do you think should be made first?
1=Longer wait times for specialist visits
2=Raise co-pays for prescriptions

3=Raise co-pays for office visits
4=Reduce subsidies for low-income people
5=Raise taxes to cover costs of health care
[WRITE IN OPTION
6=Make no changes]

[Q23] Which of these would be the SECOND best change that insurance plans or the government should make instead of raising the cost of insurance?
1=Longer wait times for specialist visits
2=Raise co-pays for prescriptions
3=Raise co-pays for office visits
4=Reduce subsidies for low-income people
5=Raise taxes to cover costs of health care
[WRITE IN OPTION
6=Make no changes]

Imagine that you have been given $50 extra income per month that you must spend on your health expenses. You might use it to help pay for things like glasses, over the- counter medicines, co-payments, or other out-of-pocket health costs. Now suppose you could pay some or all of that money to your insurance company to guarantee that you could be treated by a doctor instead of a nurse practitioner
[If scenario=1:] at all routine medical visits.
[If scenario=2:] at all urgent medical visits.
[If scenario=3:] any time you are in the ICU.

[Q24] Please type in the highest dollar amount between $0 and $50 that you personally would be willing to pay to be guaranteed access to a doctor rather than a nurse practitioner
[If scenario=1:] at all routine medical visits.
[If scenario=2:] at all urgent medical visits.
[If scenario=3:] any time you are in the ICU.

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For each of the following, please say if you think it is a major reason, a minor reason, or not a reason why health care costs are growing so rapidly.
[randomize order of Q25-Q32]

[Q25] Insurance companies make too much money
 1=major reason
2=minor reason
3=not a reason

[Q26] Drug companies make too much money
1=major reason

2=minor reason
3=not a reason

[Q27] The cost of defending against medical malpractice lawsuits
1=major reason
2=minor reason
3=not a reason

[Q28] Advances in drugs, treatments and new medical technologies are often very expensive
1=major reason
2=minor reason
3=not a reason

[Q29] Most people with health insurance have little incentive to look for lower priced doctors and services
1=major reason
2=minor reason
3=not a reason

[Q30] Doctors are paid too much
1=major reason
2=minor reason
3=not a reason

[Q31] Hospitals are paid too much
1=major reason
2=minor reason
3=not a reason

[Q32] People getting more tests and services than they really need
1=major reason
2=minor reason
3=not a reason

[Part IV: Demographic questions]

And finally, please tell us a little bit about yourself. Your answers to these questions will help us better understand the variety of opinions held by people about healthcare in the United States.

[Q32] How many people currently live in your household? Please include yourself plus any other people such as a spouse or partner, children, foster children, parents, other relatives, or unrelated people who depend on the household for their income.

[Exact number]

[Q34] Which of the following comes closest to how you feel about your household's income nowadays?
 1= Living comfortably on present income
 2= Coping on present income
 3= Finding it difficult on present income
 4= Finding it very difficult on present income

 [Q35] Are you covered by any form of health insurance or health plan right now? A health plan would include any private insurance plan through your employer or a plan that you purchased yourself, as well as a government program like Medicare, Medicaid, CHIP [or state name 1] [or state name 2]?
 1=Covered by health insurance
 2=Not covered by health insurance

 [Q36] Which of the following is your MAIN source of health insurance coverage right now?
 1=A plan through your or your spouse's employer
 2=A plan you purchased yourself
 3=Medicare
 4=Medicaid, SCHIP [or state name 1] [or state name 2]
 5=another government program
 4=other

 [Q37] At any point in the past five years, have you gone without any kind of health insurance for more than two months?
 1=yes
 2=no

 [Q38] In the past year, have you had difficulty getting an appointment with a doctor with a certain specialty, such as a doctor, orthopedist, or surgeon?
 1=Yes
 2=No

 [Q39] In the past 12 months, have you or another family member living in your household put off or postponed getting health care you needed because of the cost?
 1=Yes
 2=No

 [Q40] In general, how would you rate your health?
 1=excellent
 2=very good
 3=good
 4=fair
 5=poor

[Q41] When was the last time you needed to stay in the hospital over night for a medical reason (other than for childbirth)?
1= In the past six months
2= More than six months but less than one year ago
3= Two to five years ago
4= More than 5 years ago
5= Never needed to stay overnight in the hospital

[Q42] How many prescription medications do you take on most days?
[Count 0-max]

[Q43] Do you or a close family member have a chronic condition for which you need frequent medical checkups (e.g. diabetes, coronary artery disease, congestive heart failure)?

[Q44] Have you or a close family member ever had a heart attack or heart surgery?
1=Yes
2= No

[Q45] Are you or is someone else in your household a medical doctor?
1=Yes
2= No

[Q46] Are you or is or a close family member a nurse practitioner, physician assistant, midwife, nurse anesthetist, or clinical nurse specialist?
1=Yes
2=No

[Q47] Please use the space below to share any comments you may have about this survey.