



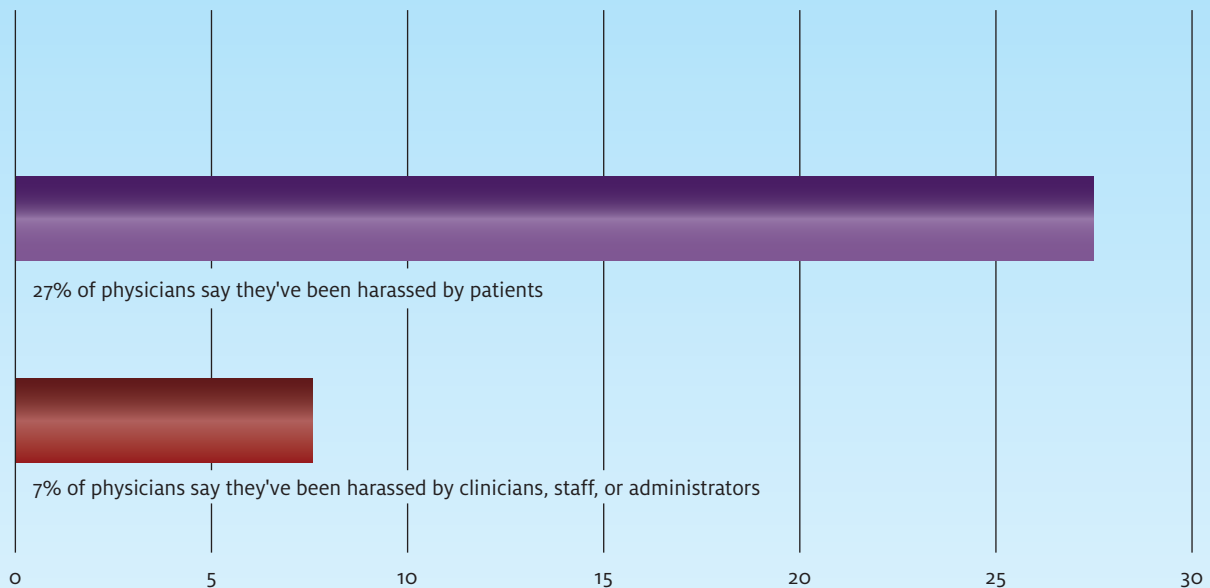
Sexual Harassment of Physicians by Patients: Far Too Common an Occurrence

When sexual harassment in a healthcare setting makes headlines, it tends to be because a healthcare provider touched or otherwise approached a patient in an inappropriate manner. (Remember Dr. Larry Nassar and the USA Gymnastics sex abuse scandal?) Then, of course there are the unfortunate incidents plaguing so many industries, in which someone in a position of power abuses their authority to force themselves on an underling, or dangles career benefits in exchange for sexual favors.

What you don't tend to read about is harassment of physicians at the hands of patients. The sad truth is that it happens far more than any of us would like to consider—nearly four times more frequently than harassment among co-workers, in fact. See the graphic below for more insights, and read #MeToo in the Urgent Care Center: When the Perpetrator is a Patient on page 29 to get a better understanding of the real and potential threats to not only your staff members' wellbeing, but the future of your entire operation. ■

SEXUAL HARASSMENT OF PHYSICIANS

Most often, the harasser is a patient



Adapted from Medscape Patients Sexually Harassing Physicians Report 2018. Available at: <https://www.medscape.com/slideshow/patients-sexually-harassing-physicians-6010036#1>. Accessed August 10, 2019.