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### **Stakeholders' perception of primary care in Switzerland: current state, anticipated development, and role of GPs**

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**Background and Aim:** Health care costs in Switzerland are among the highest worldwide. Evidence suggests that strong primary care is beneficial in terms of health care costs. Recently, the Swiss electorate strongly strengthened primary care by approving an article of law in the Swiss Constitution. However, the implementation of the new provision leaves room for interpretation. In this context, the following questions arise: How do important stakeholders of the Swiss health care system (politicians, policy makers or insurances, proponents of medical associations, representatives of the universities) evaluate the current situation and its development? What is and might be the role of GPs?

**Method:** We conducted 13 semi-structured interviews with stakeholders in Switzerland (purposive sample). These interviews were recorded and transcribed verbatim. Results were analysed following the coding paradigm of Anselm Strauss' grounded theory (GT).

**Results:** Preliminary analyses show a consensus among stakeholders that health care costs need to be decreased; Stakeholders confirm the importance of GPs in the health care system and have very high expectancies in terms of GPs' skills, knowledge, and education. Yet, the future development of the system and the GPs' function and role in it varies highly. The expectations shift on a continuum between the "Nordic health care model" (tax-based funding, publicly owned and operated hospitals, universal access based on residency, and comprehensive coverage) on one end and the "US-Model" (based on managed health care i.e. cost reduction of providing health benefits and quality improvement of care through case management) at the other.

**Conclusions:** Thus, the stakeholders expect in future a cost reduction of care while maintaining a high quality education of GPs and high quality of services. How these goals should be accomplished varies considerably depending on professional affiliation and position of the stakeholder.