



## AIM Health Membership Overview

### What is membership?

Today, most primary care doctors care for thousands of patients and see them in rushed, fifteen-minute office visits. Patients get less than a few minutes to discuss their health concerns, often only one concern per visit. It can take weeks to get an appointment and if something is needed urgently, patients see an assistant or a doctor they may have never met.

Membership changes the traditional access to a physicians and lets patients pay a monthly fee to gain more access to their physician. Membership, also called, concierge medicine or direct primary care, has been on the rise nationally, with more than [4,500 physicians practicing in the U.S.](#) According to a 2014 [Kaiser Health News](#) article, today's traditional fee-for-service healthcare model rewards physicians for seeing patients in bulk, thereby reducing time spent and the physician's ability to manage more complex issues in a typical 15-minute doctor visit. This is compounded by the millions of consumers now entering the system due to the Affordable Care Act.

“By all accounts, short visits take a toll on the doctor-patient relationship, which is considered a key ingredient of good care, and may represent a missed opportunity for getting patients more actively involved in their own health,” [Kaiser Health News](#).

### Membership benefits.

Members of AIM Health pay a \$100 per month membership fee and receive these additional benefits.

- 24/7 access to doctors by phone, text, or email. Patients can call with questions, make an appointment, use AIM Health's secure text message service, or email via AIM Health's patient portal.
- Members have no long waits. AIM Health offers same day or next day appointments.
- Members have longer appointment times, some as long as 45-minutes.

- Members have access to an online patient portal, ideal for times when patients can't remember the name of one of their medicines or if they forgot what the doctor mentioned at the last visit. The portal can be securely accessed from anywhere and on most devices. Patients can also schedule appointments online or exchange emails with their AIM Health physician.

### **How it works.**

Office visits and services are billed to insurance just like traditional medical clinics. The membership fee, however, is billed directly to the patient. The membership fee provides access for extra benefits. It is being positioned as an upgrade to current care.

AIM Health accepts most insurance, including Medicare.

### **What about nonmembers?**

AIM Health also sees patients who are not paying membership. They receive the same great medical care but with more traditional access, such as contacting the physician only during business hours through a traditional appointment visit. Non-members can upgrade to membership status any time. Conversely, membership can also be cancelled at any time.