

## Supplementary Appendix

Table S1. Search strategy

<i>Database</i>	<i>Search string</i>	<i>Records retrieved</i>	<i>Comments</i>
MEDLINE PubMed	specialist [ti] AND (routine OR primary) AND provi* [ti]	55	Limits: Human, Abstract.
	"Specialization"[Mesh] AND "Primary Health Care"[Mesh] NOT (student OR education)	553	Limits: Human, Abstract.
ScienceDirect	specialist AND (routine OR primary) AND provi*	245	Limits: Research and Review articles
Scopus	specialist AND (routine OR primary) AND provi*	60	
EBSCO Academic Search Complete	specialist AND (routine OR primary) AND provi* [title]	26	Limits: none.
Web of Science	(TI=(specialist AND (routine OR primary) AND provi*)) AND DOCUMENT TYPES: (Article)	38	Limits: none.
Embase	'specialist':ti AND 'primary care':ti	156	Limits: Humans, English, Abstracts.
	Total	1,133	

The 'Similar Articles' feature in PubMed was used to locate additional relevant articles.

Table S2. Included studies

<i>Author</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Setting</i>	<i>Study design</i>	<i>Rate of primary care provision by specialists (percent)</i>
Spiegel, 1983 A	USA	1983	Health systems data	Retrospective data analysis	34
Spiegel, 1983 B	USA	1983	Health systems data	Retrospective data analysis	12
Spiegel, 1983 C	USA	1983	Health systems data	Retrospective data analysis	9
Rosenblatt, Hart, Baldwin, Chan, Schneeweiss	USA	1998	Washington State Medicare claims data	Retrospective analysis, 1994-1995 data, patients aged 65+ years	14.7
Fink, Baldwin, Lawson, Chan, Rosenblatt, Hart	USA	2001	Washington State Medical claims data for Gynecologists	Retrospective analysis, 1994-1995 data, patients aged 65+ years	6.7
Mold	USA	2004	US Physicians	Cross-sectional survey	40
Fryer	USA	2004	Statewide survey	Questionnaire survey of specialists	46.5
Stock Keister,	USA	2004	Patients	Population based survey	11
Woodwell, NAMCS	USA	2002	Ambulatory clinics	US nationwide survey of physicians in ambulatory clinics	50
NCHS, NAMCS	USA	2013	Ambulatory clinics	NAMCS 2013	5.3
Edwards, NAMCS	USA	1997	Ambulatory clinics	NAMCS 1997	30.6
Edwards, NAMCS	USA	2010	Ambulatory clinics	NAMCS 2010	9.8
Edwards, Mafi, Landon	USA	2014	Office-based physicians	NAMCS 1997 – 2010, secondary data analysis	30.6 (in 1997) to 9.8 (2010)

Table S3. Excluded studies

<i>Ref</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Study design</i>	<i>Rate</i>
Romaire, 2014	2014	Health systems data (US Medicare beneficiaries claims data) – did not assess whether the specialists were providing primary care	25
Valderas, 2009	NAMCS 2002	Pediatric patients only. Data is subset of Woodwell, NAMCS 2002	41.3

Figure S1. PRISMA flowchart

