

Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services

March 10, 2020

Dr. Benjamin P. Fischer

### Telemedicine in Direct Primary Care

**Telemedicine** - caring for patients remotely when the physician and patient are not physically present with each other.

**Direct Primary Care** (from the American Academy of Family Physicians website [www.aafp.org](http://www.aafp.org))

*The Direct Primary Care (DPC) model is a practice and payment model where **patients/consumers pay their physician or practice directly** in the form of **periodic payments** for a **defined set of primary care services**.*

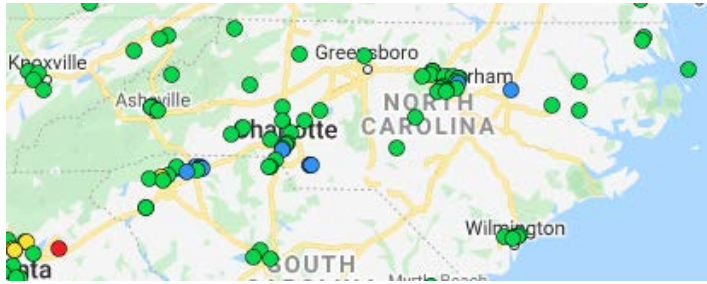
*Typically, these periodic payments provide patients enhanced services over traditional fee-for-service medicine. Such services may include **real time access via advanced communication technology to their personal physician**, extended visits, in some cases home-based medical visits, and highly personalized, coordinated, and comprehensive care administration. The AAFP supports the physician and patient choice to, respectively, provide and receive healthcare in any ethical healthcare delivery system model, including the DPC practice-setting.*

*Ideally, the DPC model is structured to emphasize and **prioritize the intrinsic power of the relationship between a patient and his/her family physician to improve health outcomes and lower overall health care costs**. The DPC contract fee structure can **enable physicians to spend more time with their patients, both in face-to-face visits, and through telephonic or electronic communications mediums should they choose, since they are not bound by insurance reimbursement restrictions**. For these reasons, the DPC model is consistent with the American Academy of Family Physicians' (AAFP) advocacy of the advanced primary care functions and a blended payment method of paying family medicine practices. The AAFP provides resources for members transforming to this model, including CME credit, and will continue to promote and support Direct Primary Care as an innovative advanced practice model.*

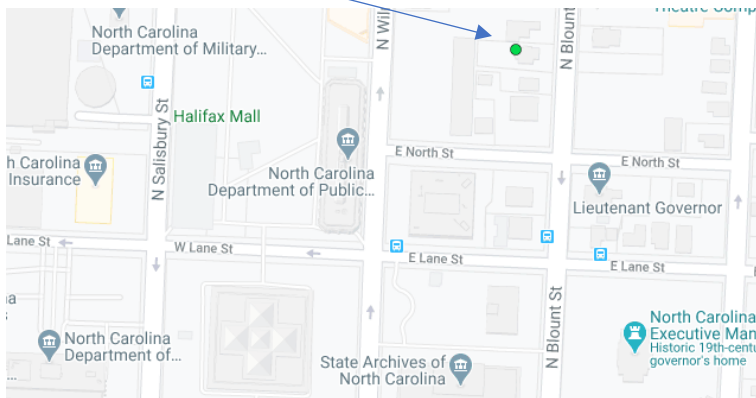
There are over 1200 Direct Primary Care practices nationally (from <https://mapper.dpcfrontier.com/>)



Around 50 Direct Primary Care practices in North Carolina



Fischer Clinic in downtown Raleigh



### **FISCHER CLINIC INFORMATION**

Founded March 2016

Benjamin Fischer, MD - Internal Medicine

Zane Lapinskes, MD – Family Medicine

Kelly Henderson, RN

Kellie Kelbaugh, RN

Liz Fischer, Practice Manager

2020 Membership Rates:

\$25-\$55 for pediatric members

\$55-\$85 for adult members

All medical services are paid for by the membership fees with no third-party billing necessary.

Transparent wholesale prices for labs, tests and procedures.

The value of our services is determined by the consumer, the patient. No need for a third party to assign value to our interactions.

Telemedicine is included and free and effective way of caring for our members.