



New Report Finds Physician Leadership Rapidly Expanding to Meet Enterprise Demands Across Healthcare

OAK BROOK, IL, UNITED STATES, June 9, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- A new report, [The State of Physician Leadership](#), reveals a fundamental transformation in the roles of physician executives—one that now extends far beyond traditional responsibilities in clinical quality and medical staff affairs. Today's physician leaders are increasingly central to enterprise strategy, financial performance, workforce sustainability, and system-wide transformation.

Drawing on a national survey of physician executives and in-depth interviews with more than 20 chief medical officers, chief clinical officers, and chief physician executives, the report from executive search and leadership advisory firm [WittKieffer](#) provides a grounded view of how organizations are adapting to growing complexity and accountability. It highlights how leading physician executives are being called upon to operate fluidly across disciplines while influencing outcomes in increasingly matrixed healthcare environments.

The report also provides a clear roadmap for the future of physician leadership. It highlights how physician executive roles are expanding—and where role design, authority, and capacity are falling out of alignment. It introduces a practical framework grounded in scope, influence, and enterprise impact—not title alone—and examines how influence, rather than formal authority, has become the primary lever for change. It also sheds light on leadership pathways, preparation gaps, and evolving development needs.

"Physician leaders today are operating at the intersection of care delivery and organizational strategy, often without the formal preparation or clearly defined authority required to succeed at that level," said Michael Anderson, M.D., Co-Executive Director of WittKieffer's Physician Leadership Institute and one of the report's lead authors. "This report provides practical insights for boards and executive teams to better define these roles, align expectations with authority, and build durable physician leadership capacity for the future."

About WittKieffer

WittKieffer is the premier executive search and leadership advisory firm developing impactful leadership teams for organizations that improve quality of life. We work exclusively with organizations in healthcare, life sciences, and education – the "Quality of Life Ecosystem." Leveraging our unwavering focus on this complex ecosystem, we help clients solve challenging problems through executive search, interim leadership, and leadership advisory services. We

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Paul Thomas

WittKieffer

+1 630-575-6901

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