

Questions 23-33 are based on the following passage and supplementary material.

The Physician Assistant Will See You Now

23 The term “paramedics” refers to health care workers who provide routine and clinical services. While the pressures of an aging population, insurance reforms, and health epidemics have increased demand for care, the supply of physicians is not expected to **24** keep pace. The Association of American Medical Colleges predicts a shortage of over 90,000 physicians by 2020; by 2025, that number could climb to more than 130,000. In some parts of the country, shortages are already a sad fact of life. A 2009 report by the Bureau of Health Professions notes that although a fifth of the US population lives in rural areas, less than a tenth of US physicians serves that population. Because a traditionalist response to the crisis—**25** amping up medical-college enrollments and expanding physician training programs—is too slow and costly to address the near-term problem, alternatives are being explored. One promising avenue has been greater reliance on physician assistants (PAs).

23

Which choice is the best introduction to the paragraph?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) For many Americans, finding a physician is likely to become a growing challenge.
- C) Getting treatment for an illness usually requires seeing either a general practitioner or a specialist.
- D) Worldwide the costs of health care are increasing at an alarming rate.

24

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) maintain the tempo.
- C) get in line.
- D) move along.

25

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) bolstering
- C) arousing
- D) revving up

26 By virtue of 27 there medical training, PAs can perform many of the jobs traditionally done by doctors, including treating chronic and acute conditions, performing minor 28 surgeries; and prescribing some medications. However, although well 29 compensated earning in 2012 a median annual salary of \$90,930, PAs cost health care providers less than do the physicians who

26

At this point, the writer is considering adding the following sentence.

Several factors argue in favor of such an expanded role.

Should the writer make this addition here?

- A) Yes, because it introduces a counterargument for balance.
- B) Yes, because it frames the points that the paragraph will examine.
- C) No, because it does not specify the education required to be a PA.
- D) No, because it presents information that is only tangential to the main argument.

27

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) they're
- C) their
- D) his or her

28

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) surgeries; and
- C) surgeries, and,
- D) surgeries, and

29

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) compensated (earning in 2012 a median annual salary of \$90,930),
- C) compensated, earning in 2012 a median annual salary of \$90,930
- D) compensated: earning in 2012 a median annual salary of \$90,930,

might otherwise undertake these tasks. Moreover, the training period for PAs is markedly shorter than

30 those for physicians—two to three years versus the seven to eleven required for physicians.

Physician assistants already offer vital primary care in many locations. Some 90,000 PAs were employed nationwide in 2012. Over and above their value in partially compensating for the general physician shortage has been their extraordinary contribution to rural health care. A recent review of the scholarly literature by Texas researchers found that PAs lend cost-efficient, widely appreciated services in underserved areas.

31 In addition, rural-based PAs often provide a broader spectrum of such services than do their urban and suburban counterparts, possibly as a consequence of the limited pool of rural-based physicians.

30

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) that compared with
- C) that for
- D) DELETE the underlined portion.

31

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) Thus,
- C) Despite this,
- D) On the other hand,

Increasingly, PAs and other such medical practitioners have become a critical complement to physicians. A 2013 RAND Corporation report estimates that while the number of primary care physicians will increase slowly from 2010 to 2025, the number of physician assistants and nurse-practitioners in primary care will grow at much faster rates. **32** Both by merit and from necessity, PAs are likely to greet more **33** patience than ever before.

Supply of Physicians, Physician Assistants,
and Nurse-Practitioners in Primary Care
Clinical Practice in 2010 and 2025

Provider type	2010		2025 (predicted)	
	Number	Percent of total	Number	Percent of total
Physicians	210,000	71	216,000	60
Physician assistants	30,000	10	42,000	12
Nurse-practitioners	56,000	19	103,000	28
Total	296,000	100	361,000	100

Adapted from David I. Auerbach et al., "Nurse-Managed Health Centers and Patient-Centered Medical Homes Could Mitigate Expected Primary Care Physician Shortage." ©2013 by Project HOPE: The People-to-People Health Foundation, Inc.

32

At this point, the writer is considering adding the following sentence.

In fact, according to the data presented in the table, physician assistants will likely outnumber physicians by 2025.

Should the writer make this addition here?

- A) Yes, because it provides additional support for the main point of the paragraph.
- B) Yes, because it addresses a possible counterargument to the writer's main claim.
- C) No, because it is not an accurate interpretation of the data.
- D) No, because it introduces irrelevant information that interrupts the flow of the passage.

33

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) patience, than
- C) patients then
- D) patients than