Use this table to better understand the settings available as you begin your search for your first or next practice.

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<th>EMPLOYMENT STATUS</th>
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| Employed physician*              | LOW but variable | LOW                          | LOW            | Set call schedule that is unique to each practice | Physician partners make decisions | • Very important to understand the culture of decision-making and physician support within the organization.  
• The contract should include support staff, call, and patient volume/panel size |
| Owner of solo practice           | HIGH         | HIGH                        | HIGH           | Personally responsible for arranging with other colleagues | Sole owner                      | • Some enjoy the variety of taking on an entrepreneurial role  
• It can be difficult to disconnect or take time away |
| Partner in a group practice      | MEDIUM       | MEDIUM                      | MEDIUM         | Set call schedule that is unique to each practice | Opportunity for partnership varies | • Review partnership requirements and benefits carefully as they vary widely between organizations |
| Independent contractor (locum tenens) | MEDIUM       | LOW                         | LOW to HIGH    | Specific to each contract | Self-determined          | • Some appreciate the travel and flexibility  
• Recognize there may be limited stability; one must always be on the lookout for the next job and flexible about location  
• Anticipate and plan for gaps between contracts  
• Few opportunities for continuity and ongoing relationships with patients |

* Employed physician – This group has considerable variation depending on the size of the employer, and whether it is a physician-owned practice (which can be small or large) or a corporation (which can be small or large). In some ways, the size matters more than the ownership.
EXPLORE MORE!

Playbooks and Toolkits
- Private Practice playbook
- What to Look For in Your First or Next Practice toolkit

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Webinars and Videos
- Behind the Module: Author Alexandra Ristow, MD, on “What to Look for in Your First or Next Practice”
  video
- Private Practice Playbook: A Brief Overview video

Want more content like this?
Check out the complete What to Look For in Your First or Next Practice toolkit and more at stepsforward.org.