Feeling misunderstood? You're not alone. We asked physicians what they wish their patients knew about their profession. Here's what they said.

"I wish they knew how much I really make for a salary."
"I wish they understood why physicians usually run late. It is almost never due to our 'other' life — spouses, kids, dogs, our own health, etc. — though we have those issues like everyone else. It is almost always due to patient care. If I have left a patient waiting it is because I am still with a prior patient. Physicians try to give each patient their undivided attention and take care of their needs that day. Sometimes that can fit into a 15-minute or 30-minute appointment slot, and sometimes it can’t."

"I wish they knew that we are not holding out on them. If checking for 'adrenal fatigue' or prescribing pig thyroid were in their best interest, we'd do it."
"I wish they knew how expensive it is to run a medical practice."

"I wish they knew how much money we write off every month as bad debt."
"I wish they knew that I do care about the pain they are having, their dog's health, the fact that they can't afford the medication they desperately need ... even if I seem busy or preoccupied."

"I wish they knew that I can't do as good a job on their last minute, oh-by-the-way concern, as I could if they told me about it at the beginning of the visit."
"I wish patients knew the amount of hours I put in daily and on the weekends. It's not your typical [8 a.m. to 5 p.m.] job, where you clock out at 5 p.m. I rotate call on weekends. The amount of charting is ridiculous."

"I wish they knew how often we have to fight with their insurance companies just to get paid for services we've rendered."
"I wish they knew that I can't lie on paperwork or prescriptions so that they get extra medication at a lower price, or so that they can get extra time off work or 'just because.' My integrity matters."