



OUR FRAGMENTED HEALTH CARE SYSTEM: CAUSES AND SOLUTIONS



*The Petrie-Flom Center for Health Law Policy, Biotechnology and
Bioethics Harvard Law School*

Friday, June 13 – Saturday, June 14, 2008

Why is our health care system so fragmented in the care it gives patients? Why is this so even within a single hospital, where errors or miscommunications often seem to result from poor coordination among the myriad of professionals treating any one individual patient? The conference aims to address this broad question with a highly interdisciplinary approach. Among the specific issues we will cover from various disciplinary perspectives are the following:

Legal and Regulatory. Is the law part of the problem, by mandating a hospital structure that makes medical staff too independent of centralized administration, by imposing payment systems that separate out payments to hospitals, surgeons and other doctors, or in some other way? Could the law be part of the solution through regulations or damage actions designed to induce more optimal organization?

Medical and Scientific. Are there sound medical or scientific reasons for the current level of fragmentation or is some of it medically inappropriate or scientifically unwarranted? Are there medical or technological solutions that hospitals or doctors could adopt within the current system to ameliorate problems caused by fragmentation?

Business. Are there sensible business reasons for the current form of hospital organization or do organizational lessons from other industries make clear the current form is inefficient and poorly designed to produce patient satisfaction? Are there business reorganizations that could improve hospital organization?

Economics. Does economics indicate that fragmentation tracks incentives to reward bringing in patients and treating them in a way that is perverse or socially desirable? If there are problems, can we devise better incentive structures that would naturally lead hospitals to eliminate bad forms of fragmentation?

Conference Schedule

Friday, June 13, 2008

Location: Langdell South, Harvard Law School

2:00 p.m. Panel I Causes of Fragmentation

Mark Hall & Frank Pasquale moderating

Integrated Delivery Systems: What they do; why we need them; and how to get there from here?

Alain Enthoven

Competition Policy, Organizational Structures and Fragmentation

Thomas Greaney

The Role of the Payment System in Causing Fragmentation

David Hyman

The US Healthcare System: A Product of American History and Values

Nancy Kane & David Johnson

Defragmenting Health Care Delivery Through Quality Reporting

Kristin Madison

From Visible Harm to Relative Risk: Overcoming Fragmented Pharmacovigilance?

Arthur Daemrich

4:15 p.m. Panel II Consequences of Fragmentation

Kristin Madison & Kathryn Zeiler moderating

Fragmentation and Service Delivery: Explaining Who Owns What in Health Care

David Cutler & Jill Horwitz

The Recruitment of Subjects for Clinical Trials and Drug Innovation

Anup Malani & Tomas Philipson

Markets for Infections: Mismatched Incentives for Hospitals, Patients and Drug Companies

Kevin Outterson

Organizational Fragmentation and Care Quality in the US Health Care System

Randal Cebul, James Rebitzer, Lowell J. Taylor, & Mark Votruba

How Does Fragmentation of Care Contribute to the Costs of Care?

Meredith Rosenthal, Hoangmai Pham & Eric Schneider

Fragmentation in Mental Health Care: An Empirical Study of Insurance Claims

Barak Richman

6:30 p.m. Close of First Day

Saturday, June 14, 2008

Location: Langdell South, Harvard Law School

9:00 a.m. Panel III Developments in Fragmentation

Frances Miller & Kevin Outterson moderating

Health Care as an Emergent System: Pathologies and Cures

Gregg Bloche

Expenditure and Productivity Growth in Health Care

Amitabh Chandra & Jonathan Skinner

Beyond Coverage: Employer Based Health Related Services and Their Effects on Fragmentation

Dean Hashimoto

The Impact of Threatened Entry by Specialty Hospitals on the Service Offerings of General Hospitals

Robert Huckman & Jonathan Thompson Kolstad

Fragmentation vs. Cross-Subsidization: Should Specialty Hospitals and Ambulatory Surgery Centers be Taxed?

Frank Pasquale

11:30 a.m. Panel IV Possible Reforms

Einer Elhauge & Barak Richman moderating

Of Doctors and Hospitals: Setting the Analytical Framework for Managing and Regulating the Relationship

James Blumstein

Comprehensive Electronic Medical Records: In Pursuit of the Holy Grail

Mark A. Hall

Value Purchasing in Traditional Medicare: Getting Beyond Silos

Lawrence Casalino & Timothy Jost

An Incentive Compatible Design for Public Health Insurance

Eric Helland & Jonathan Klick

Fragmentation: Is That Why American Health Care Reform Is So Hard?

Theodore Marmor

1:30 p.m. Close of Conference