

Quality MATTERS



An IQH, Information & Quality HEALTHCARE Publication Serving Mississippi Physicians & Providers

IQH LAUNCHES EFFORT TO TRANSFORM HEALTHCARE QUALITY

Providing high quality health care is among the top priorities of nearly every administrator, physician and staff member these days. With public information on hospitals, nursing homes, home health agencies and physicians more readily available throughout the nation, high quality health care is also increasingly becoming an expectation of policy makers and consumers. Nevertheless, it will likely be more than 20 years before there are systems providing optimal care.

Information & Quality Healthcare, Mississippi's Medicare Quality Improvement Organization, is committed to helping providers deliver care that is consistently safe, effective, efficient, timely, person-centered and equitable—the aims identified and endorsed by the Institute of Medicine. IQH has launched a series of ambitious quality improvement initiatives to address these objectives. The IQH team will employ four primary strategies aimed at some-

thing being called transformational change, or accelerating the rate of quality improvement. Here's a summary of how that goal will be accomplished:

Measure and report performance:

If you don't know where you are, it's impossible to know where you are going. Measurement and reporting will help healthcare providers identify opportunities for improvement, track the progress of changes and compare performance against past results.

Adopt and effectively use information technology:

Research strongly suggests that technologies such as electronic medical records, computerized physician order entry systems and medication bar codes reduce errors and assist providers in making appropriate point-of-care decisions. The IQH team will allocate resources to help physicians, caregivers and staff select and best use these tools to improve outcomes.

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Remaking American Medicine...Health Care for the 21st Century



Physician Voluntary Reporting Program



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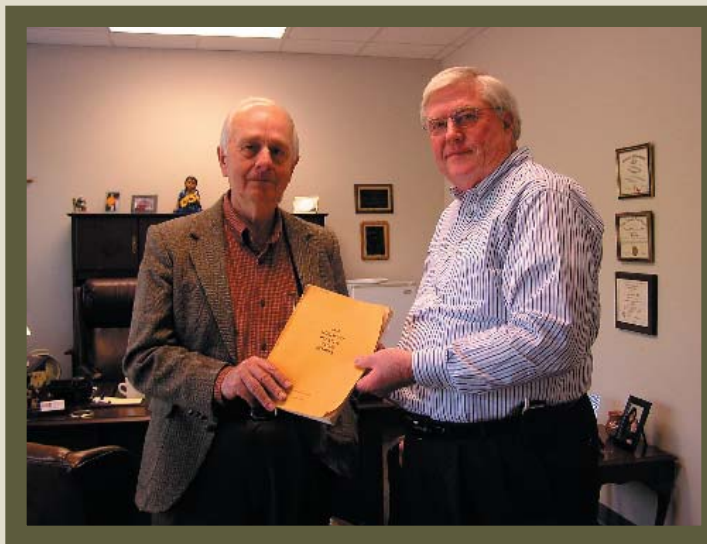
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Spotlight



Dr. W. Lamar Weems, left, presents Dr. James McIlwain, IQH president, a copy of the “1974 Mississippi Relative Value Studies,” for the historical files of IQH. Dr. Weems, a longtime supporter of the quality improvement program and a former board chairman, donated numerous items from his files that reflect the early history of IQH.

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*4-part Television Series Scheduled
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Want to see your quality-related news here? E-mail Carole Kelly at ckelly@msgio.sdps.org or call at (601) 957-1575, ext. 209.

Nursing Home Workshop: Cultural Change and the Workforce
March 28: Jackson Medical Mall
March 29: Oxford Conference Center
Contact Felicia Garner at (601) 957-1575 ext. 214 for details.



September 2006

Remaking American Medicine...Health Care for the 21st Century, a four-part television series to be broadcast on PBS in September 2006, tackles the complex issue of ensuring quality health care for everyone and provides a glimpse into the type of care we all deserve. *Remaking American Medicine* is a production of Crosskeys Media, led by award-winning documentary filmmakers Frank Christopher and Matthew Eisen. *Remaking American Medicine* will tell stories of *Champions of Change*, individuals and institutions committed to delivering health care that is safe, evidence-based, efficient and meets the needs of patients and their families.

Drawing on unprecedented access to health care

institutions across the nation, the series will present detailed and emotionally engaging profiles of individuals struggling to fix our broken health care system. The stories will be told through the eyes of doctors, nurses, administrators and patients, showing their struggles, their setbacks and their victories. Patient- and family-centered care is one of the overarching themes of the series.

According to Lee Allen, project director of DeVillier Communications, Inc., the series will inspire and empower viewers, demonstrating what is possible and what quality of care truly means. Most importantly, it will challenge everyone to help transform American health care.

**Attn.: Physicians,
Nurse Practitioners,
Nurses**

Cardiovascular Health Seminar

Saturday, May 6, 2006
UMMC Conference Center
Jackson Medical Mall
7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Cardiovascular Health Seminar sponsored by:
Information & Quality Healthcare (IQH)
Mississippi Department of Health

Presenters:

Dr. David Lee Gordon, formerly of Jackson, now of Miami, who will give two presentations; Dr. Myrna Alexander; Dr. Robert Galli; Dr. James Warnock; and Dr. Annette Low.

Registration Fee: \$50

For more information, contact IQH at 601-957-1575 ext. 209 or 218; visit www.iqh.org

Continuing education credit is being requested from appropriate medical specialty organizations.