

The Series

"Improving the quality of the care hospitals deliver is not a project or a campaign...it is the fabric and fiber of how doctors, nurses and other caregivers must approach their work every day, patient by patient. It is creating the kind of systems that not only changes what is done and how it's done, but involves patients, families and the community at large. It is work that never ends."

-- Dick Davidson, president
American Hospital Association



Remaking American Medicine ... Health Care for the 21st Century is ambitious in scope, journeying across the nation to follow an array of pioneering individuals

and institutions as they work to bridge the "quality chasm." The series is being produced by Crosskeys Media, the award-winning filmmaking company, and will tell stories of change.

Drawing on unprecedented access to health care institutions across the nation, this four-part 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. The goal is to inspire and empower viewers, both members of the general public and health care professionals, to join in efforts to transform American health care.

Working Titles

Program One "Silent Killer" -- Every year at least 98,000 Americans die – and countless more are injured – as a result of medical errors. This program begins by profiling the efforts of Sorrel King, whose 18-month daughter was killed at one of the most respected hospitals in the world, Johns Hopkins. King has gone from grieving victim to engaged activist, partnering with Johns Hopkins to make safety a top priority at the institution. Now she has joined forces with Dr. Don Berwick, a nationally recognized patient safety advocate, to save 100,000 lives in American hospitals.

Program Two "First Do No Harm" -- This program focuses on the impact of medical errors in two hospitals, and follows the efforts of physicians who are challenging their colleagues to live up to their oath to First Do No Harm. Hackensack University Medical Center in New Jersey is engaged in an effort to completely transform the way the institution delivers care. The goal is to ensure that the people trusted to provide safe and effective medical treatment do not harm patients. In Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, chief of medicine Dr. Richard Shannon is confronting an epidemic of hospital-acquired infections that are shattering the lives of its victims.

Program Three "The Stealth Epidemic" -- Chronic diseases like diabetes and congestive heart failure affect nearly 100 million Americans, and treatment of these illnesses consumes nearly 70% of all health care resources. Yet doctors are often unable to prevent needless suffering or even death, and these failures are threatening the viability of our entire health care system. This program looks at groundbreaking efforts in two very different communities -- Los Angeles and Whatcom County in the state of Washington -- that are fundamentally transforming the physician-patient relationship ... and offer a glimmer of hope for patients across the country who are struggling with their chronic conditions.

Program Four "Hand in Hand" -- As medicine continues to become more and more technologically sophisticated and the systems that deliver medical care become more complex, the relationship between providers, patients and families is more important than ever. This final program tells the story of patients and families who have formed a unique bond in a teaching hospital in the small town of Augusta, Georgia to transform the institution into a nationally recognized facility where partnership is a guiding vision to the care it delivers.