



Series Synopsis

(QIOs may use this series synopsis to provide an overview of each of the four parts that comprise the series.)

Remaking American Medicine™...Health Care for the 21st Century, a four part television series intended for broadcast on PBS in Fall 2006 will take a 'no-blame' approach to the crisis in health care, focusing not just on errors or problems, but also on positive stories about change. The goal of the series is to inspire and empower viewers, both members of the public and health care professionals, to join in efforts to improve dramatically the quality of American health care.

Drawing on unprecedented access to health care institutions across the nation, the series producers will present detailed and emotionally involving profiles of individuals who are attempting to transform patient care. The stories will be told through the eyes of clinicians, medical educators, administrators and patients, showing their struggles, their setbacks and their victories.

An independent advisory panel of experts has been assembled, comprised of distinguished scholars, quality improvement leaders and individuals with years of experience in the health care system. The panel is playing a key role in reviewing and commenting upon the editorial content of the series. (Advisory Panel listed below.)

Program One – "The Hospital" begins by introducing viewers to health care as it actually is, not as they believe it to be. The program then examines acute care facilities that are struggling to deliver care that is safer, more effective, more efficient, and ultimately yields dramatic improvements in patients' lives.

Program Two – "Living with Chronic Disease" reveals the enormous challenges facing a health care system largely unprepared to address the needs of the nearly 100 million Americans now suffering from chronic illnesses. The program will explore innovative models of care that are fundamentally transforming the physician-patient relationship.

Program Three – "Community by Community" examines how models of excellence in acute care and chronic disease management are being expanded to entire communities. This program will look at efforts to improve medical care within a local region, while at the same time exploring the economic, political and social forces that often stand in the way of such reform efforts.

Program Four – "Creating Change" looks at the challenges facing those attempting to improve the quality of the entire health care system. The program examines three levers of change that have the potential to drive improvement efforts: innovative education programs; patient advocates working both inside and outside the system; and collaborative efforts among the major stakeholders in health care.

Series Advisory Panel

Dr. Paul Batalden is Professor of Pediatrics and Community Medicine at Dartmouth Medical School; and is Director, Health Care Improvement Leadership Development, at the Center for the Evaluative Clinical Sciences.

Dr. Donald Berwick is President and CEO of the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI). Dr. Berwick is Clinical Professor of Pediatrics and Health Care Policy at Harvard Medical School.

Dr. Tina Castañares is a practicing family physician, health care administrator and private consultant with a special interest in the uninsured and underserved.

Dr. Carolyn M. Clancy serves as Director of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). Dr. Clancy is a general internist and health services researcher, and a graduate of Boston College and the University of Massachusetts Medical School.

Dr. Janet Corrigan is Director of the Board on Health Care Services at the Institute of Medicine (IOM).

Dr. Charles Francis is President of the Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science, a private academic institution located in South Central Los Angeles.

Dr. Howard Hiatt is Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School and Senior Physician at the Brigham and Women's Hospital.

Dr. Brent James is Vice President, Medical Research and Continuing Medical Education at Intermountain Health Care (IHC). He is also Executive Director of the IHC Institute for Health Care Delivery Research.

Dr. David Lansky is the director of the Markle Foundation's health program.

Dr. David Leach is Executive Director of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME).

Dr. Kate Lorig is the Director of the Stanford Patient Education Research Center. Dr. Lorig is a Professor of Medicine in the Stanford School of Medicine.

Dr. Joseph Newhouse is the John D. MacArthur Professor of Health Policy and Management at Harvard University, Director of the Division of Health Policy Research Education, Chair of the Committee on Higher Degrees in Health Policy, and Director of the Interfaculty Initiative in Health Policy.

Mr. Pete Velez is a senior executive with demonstrated achievement in health care management, and has been a longstanding proponent of quality health care for all New Yorkers.

Dr. Ed Wagner is a general internist/epidemiologist and Director of the W.A. MacColl Institute for Healthcare Innovation at the Center for Health Studies, Group Health Cooperative of Puget Sound. He is also Professor of Health Services at the University of Washington School of Public Health and Community Medicine.

Dr. Shiela A. Ryan, Professor, Charlotte Peck Lienemann Distinguished Alumni Chair and Director of International Programs in nursing at the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Nursing in Omaha, NE has agreed to serve as a series advisory panel member.