



Series Synopsis

Remaking American Medicine will tell stories of change. 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.

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.

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 Descriptions

"Silent Killer" -- Every year at least 98,000 Americans are killed – and countless more are injured – as a result of medical errors. This program begins by profiling the efforts of Sorrel King, whose 18-month-old daughter died 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.

"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 their victims.

“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 offers a glimmer of hope for patients across the country who are struggling with their chronic conditions.

“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 and patients and their 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.

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.

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.

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.