



Trusted Senior Home Care

Cincy Senior Corner

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THE FUTURE OF HEALTH CARE - A New Emphasis

Recently I attended a summit sponsored by CBTS and Cincy Magazine on what our health care system may look like in 2015. The panel included a VP from Humana, President of Global Health Care for P & G, Professor from UC, Representative from Quest Diagnostics, and the President of Mercy Fairfield. They shared several significant insights.

1. Reimbursement for care will be based on the outcome of each patient instead of the amount of patients seen. This is a must to control costs.
2. Our present system has the medical profession treating the sick. The future system will motivate the consumer to be involved in their own health and it will become their responsibility to live healthier lives.
3. There will be growth in accountable, Coordinated Care that will be held together by technology. Coordinated Care was described as something like a database on each of us so that everyone concerned with our health can measure outcomes and share our past health history. Growth in diagnostics, prevention and health risks assessments are also in our future.
4. A big challenge is coming regarding behavioral health. 50-60% of patients have mental issues along with physical. How will these outcomes be measured? For example: Depression, a mental illness, is connected with both Diabetes and Obesity.
5. Educators will not only educate on new careers but also on healthy behaviors. The panel felt that there is a real weakness in our core competencies such as Science and Math; this needs to change for a successful future of implementing "Coordinated Care".
6. Holistic Medicines will be integrated into our health care system. Insurance is starting to cover the costs of these and this will drive integration.
7. The new health care law places emphasis on keeping the patient out of the hospital. Contact between the patient and health care providers will grow; controlling costs will be a big challenge.
8. The government must move toward motivating the employee to take a bigger role in their own health care, a more outcome oriented one.

Summary: Our future health care system will reward positive outcomes not activity. There was some disagreement on whether present jobs in health care fields will grow; but all agreed that new types of jobs would be available to support our future health care system. All groups of people that we come in contact with will be intertwined in our health care: medical, educators, government, employers, etc. All of the information will be supported by technology and will result in a more Coordinated Care.

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