

Let's Make Health Care a Team Sport

A Message from America's Hospitals

Want a health care system that is both efficient and effective? Then knock down antiquated regulatory barriers that limit positive change.

A typical Medicare beneficiary regularly visits two primary care physicians and five specialists; patients with multiple chronic conditions see more. If doctors, nurses, hospitals and other caregivers could work as a team, the care patients receive would be more convenient, with less duplication and fewer adverse prescription drug interactions.

But achieving such "clinical integration" is like trying to play a video game with a deck of cards. Outdated laws and overlapping regulations discourage medical professionals from collaborating or influencing adoption of "best practices" that result in better patient outcomes. Old-fashioned regulations add costs and limit patients from playing a more active role in



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their own health by outlawing anything that might be construed as an incentive.

Achieving needed collaboration requires reducing the regulatory burden and changing anti-kickback, Stark and Civil Money Penalty prohibitions. There must be clear, proactive guidance from the antitrust agencies and the IRS, so health care providers

know the rules of the game before they start playing.

The American Hospital Association and its 5,000 member hospitals, health systems and other health care organizations, and 42,000 individual members, are determined to bring patients more efficient and effective care. Everyone agrees that regulations have run amok. We urge the government to eliminate barriers that stymie the care Medicare patients receive.

Let's all work together to make our health care system the best it can be.

America's Hospitals — Leading Change for Better Patient Care



**American Hospital
Association**

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