

Smarter Health Care Regulations

A Message from America's Hospitals

Nobody loves regulation. But in the health care sector, we recognize some regulations are essential to protecting patients and ensuring valuable health care dollars are spent wisely—in ways that put patients first.

But today, hospitals, doctors and other health care providers spend too much time and too many resources complying with regulations that are outdated, duplicative, unfair or even counterproductive.

Unnecessary or poorly targeted regulations don't help patients—but cost providers and our communities. They also obstruct the innovation and connections needed to make our fragmented health care system more patient-focused. Two examples:

First, meaningful reform of our health care delivery system depends on better coordination of patient care. But the promise of higher quality and efficiency is



Rich Umbdenstock
President and CEO
American Hospital Association

being stifled by a host of legal and regulatory barriers that inhibit hospital and physician collaboration.

Second, four separate federal programs conduct redundant reviews of hospital payments to identify improper billing. If Recovery Audit Contractors believe a patient should

have been treated in an outpatient facility rather than being admitted, the hospital must return payment—even if everyone agrees the care was necessary. Hospitals prevail at least 75% of the time when they appeal these decisions, but each appeal costs even more time and money that could go to patient care.

Building a better health care system means eliminating outdated rules and regulations and ensuring that new ones are coordinated, efficient and effective.

Hospitals are working hard to put patients first and make careful use of resources. We hope federal regulators will do the same.

Smarter health regulations mean high-quality and efficient health care.

To read more, go to: www.AHA.org/smartregs



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