

Appropriate Use of Medical Resources

Discussion Guide

Medical knowledge has increased exponentially in the last few decades and clinical knowledge doubles as fast as every two years. Cutting edge surgeries, cures for once devastating diseases, and tools to manage chronic illness have all been great boons to society, allowing more productive lives. But with all this knowledge looms a larger debate, when are we doing more than we should and how do we decide? While specialty medical societies and others have begun to identify areas of overuse and explore methods to measure and reduce it, the

role of hospitals and health systems has not been explored in depth.

Appropriate use of medical resources will require a coordinated effort across the care continuum and in partnership with consumers. To begin the discussion in your hospital and community, share the Appropriate Use of Medical Resources white paper with your board, medical staff and community leaders and use the discussion questions below to start to explore the issue together.

Summary of Recommendations

- **The AHA has developed a “top five” list of hospital-based procedures or interventions that should be reviewed and discussed by a patient and physician prior to proceeding:**
 - **Appropriate blood management in inpatient services**
 - **Appropriate antimicrobial stewardship**
 - **Reducing inpatient admissions for ambulatory-sensitive conditions (i.e., low back pain, asthma, uncomplicated pneumonia)**
 - **Appropriate use of elective percutaneous coronary intervention**
 - **Appropriate use of the ICU for imminently terminal illness (including encouraging early intervention and discussion about priorities for medical care in the context of progressive disease)**
- As more measures for overuse are developed, hospitals should employ these as part of their overall quality efforts and report on findings.
- Hospital management should be aware of clinical practice guidelines and ensure that clinicians are aware and employ the guidelines.
- Hospitals should encourage the use and adoption of clinical decision aids and other communication resources.
- Hospitals should provide a structure and method for patients and their providers to have meaningful conversations about appropriate use of resources.
- Hospitals should employ available educational opportunities for staff and providers on appropriate use of resources.

Questions

Rate the readiness of our organization to accept the AHA's "top five" recommendations.
(5 = very prepared,
1 = not at all prepared)

What do you see as the key challenges for our organization to reducing non-beneficial care?

How do the recommendations affect our organization's business model and planning?

What tools and resources will we need to implement the recommendations?

How can we begin to engage our community and patients in this discussion?