

Coordinating for Better Care

A Message from America's Hospitals

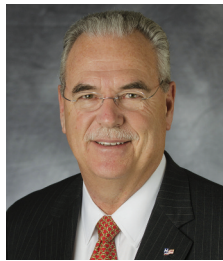
Our health care system is like a hybrid engine sitting on a vintage chassis. Something's got to change before it can move forward.

Patients expect their caregivers to coordinate with one another, provide the most advanced treatments, and make care more convenient and affordable. It's a far more radical shift than simply going to the pharmacy for a flu shot.

Hospitals are taking a hard look at how they need to change to meet new expectations. And they are forming a variety of partnerships that lead to better outcomes for patients, and progress toward the healthy communities to which we all aspire.

Hospitals and physicians across the country are looking for ways to share overhead expenses and access capital so they can meet new standards and invest in innovative technologies like electronic medical records. At the same time, they are looking at how they can better coordinate care to meet patient expectations and curb costs.

Because every community is unique, the solution will be different for every hos-



Rich Umbdenstock
President and CEO
American Hospital Association

pital. Many stand-alone and rural hospitals are having a particularly difficult time finding resources to modernize without a partner. But large or small, urban or rural, all hospitals share one challenge: federal regulations designed for yesterday, not for today and tomorrow.

For some hospitals, partnering with other hospitals makes good sense. Others need to

repurpose underutilized buildings or beds to provide a service their community now needs more, like an outpatient clinic or telemedicine center.

Some see these kinds of changes as threats. We see them as opportunities to achieve better health, better health care and lower costs in every community.

It's time for regulators to recognize the changing health care landscape and remove obstacles on the road to collaboration. Health care is changing; hospitals are changing; and regulations that block progress toward meeting patient demands and community expectations must change, too.

America's hospitals are leading the way

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