Leverage Local Strengths to Achieve Affordability

Hospital and health systems must continue focusing on driving quality and high reliability despite Medicare and Medicaid funding uncertainty coupled with a shift to caring for people outside the hospital. State partnerships to do some things differently and create value is key. Some hospitals and health systems are working together with insurers to manage care for key populations, others are reducing unnecessary variation, and some are using real-time data to identify and create appropriate healthy interventions to high-risk patients before they experience an expensive episode of care in the emergency department.

Disruption is Inevitable, so Embrace A.I., Telemedicine and Machine Learning Now

The better the care delivered, the more cost goes down but there is only finite savings in that. The biggest impact on cost will come from reducing utilization and staffing. Elements are starting now – urgent care provided via telemedicine or a machine learning algorithms around echocardiograms that takes staffing costs out of the system – but expect technology to redefine care in ways we can’t yet imagine removing tremendous cost from the system.

The Key to Better Health Care is Driving Organizational Culture

Health care can have great ideas and cost-saving innovations, but leaders must drive culture within the organization, reiterating that health care is multicultural, tolerant and able to work together. The full spectrum of employees must feel supported and safe in order to be ready for change.

Patient-Focused Care Needs Cross-Industry Partnerships

The health care field has made great strides in partnering to address health needs – hospitals with hospitals, hospitals with insurers, employers and community groups – but the health and affordability challenges our nation faces are bigger than just one field. Focusing on what’s best for the patient, considering big ideas that involve technology, high reliability, and culture change can best be done by broad partnerships. Visit aha.org/physicians for more information on immersion sessions for clinicians to address leadership that drives well-being, as well as education on addressing the complexity of health care delivery to foster resilience. A resource-rich knowledge hub to encourage clinicians and administrators working together to disrupt the current system and improve care for our patients and communities.