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What's New

Early Impacts of the Recession on Health Care Safety Net Providers

Jan. 27, 2010

While the recession increased demands on the health care safety net as Americans lost jobs and health insurance, the impact on safety net providers has been mixed and less severe than expected in some cases, according to a new HSC study of five communities: Cleveland; Greenville, S.C.; northern New Jersey; Phoenix; and Seattle.

[Research Brief No. 15](#)
[News Release](#)

Episode-Based Payments: Charting a Course for Health Care Payment Reform

Jan. 14, 2010

As consensus grows that true reform of the U.S. health care system requires a move away from fee-for-service payments, designing alternative payment methods, including episode-based payments, has emerged as a high priority for policy makers, according to a new Policy Analysis from the National Institute for Health Care Reform.

[Policy Analysis No. 1](#)
[Media Advisory](#)

Elizabeth Docteur Joins HSC as Vice President and Director of Policy Analysis

Jan. 6, 2010

Elizabeth Docteur, M.S., former deputy director of the health division of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), will join the Center for Studying Health System Change on Jan. 11 as vice president and director of policy analysis.

[News Release](#)

Gap Exists Between Vision for Electronic Medical Records and Clinicians' Experiences

Dec. 29, 2009

A gap exists between policy makers' expectations that current commercial electronic medical records (EMRs) can improve coordination of patient care and clinicians' real-world experiences with EMRs, according to a study by HSC published online in *The Journal of General Internal*

HSC in the News

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Use of Care Management Tools for Patients with Chronic Conditions Varies Widely

Dec. 16, 2009

Use of care management tools such as group visits or patient registries varies widely among primary care physicians whose practices care for patients with four common chronic conditions—asthma, diabetes, congestive heart failure and depression—according to a new national study released today by HSC.

[Issue Brief No. 129](#)

[News Release](#)

California's Health Economies: Cost Pressures, Changing Markets and New Models of Care

Dec. 14, 2009

In July 2009, the California HealthCare Foundation (CHCF), in partnership with HSC, published six regional health care market reports resulting from site visits to California communities. The six markets—Fresno, Los Angeles, Oakland/San Francisco, Riverside/San Bernardino, Sacramento, and San Diego—reflect a range of economic, demographic, health care delivery, quality, and financing conditions. Today, CHCF published four reports examining specific health system issues illuminated by this six-market study.

- [Shifting Ground: Erosion of the Delegated Model in California](#)
- [California's Safety Net: The Role of Counties in Overseeing Care](#)
- [A Tighter Bond: California Hospitals Seek Stronger Ties with Physicians](#)
- [Managed Care in California: Cost Concerns Influence Product Design](#)

HSC's Paul B. Ginsburg Named Research Director of the National Institute for Health Care Reform

December 10, 2009

While continuing in his role as HSC President, Paul B. Ginsburg will serve as research director of the nonpartisan, nonprofit National Institute for Health Care Reform—an initiative of the International Union, UAW; Chrysler Group LLC; Ford Motor Company; and General Motors to conduct high-quality, objective health policy research and analyses to improve the organization, financing and delivery of U.S. health care.

[News Release](#)

Getting to the Real Issues in Health Care Reform

Nov. 12, 2009

If current congressional health care reform proposals become law it would be only the start of the reform process, according to a policy perspective by HSC President Paul B. Ginsburg, Ph.D., published online on Nov. 12 by the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

[Perspective Abstract](#)

Despite Transparency, New Hampshire Health Care Price Variation Remains

Nov. 11, 2009

Price variation for certain outpatient medical procedures has not decreased in New Hampshire since the state launched the HealthCost price transparency program in early 2007, according to a study released today by HSC and funded by the California HealthCare Foundation.

[Issue Brief No. 128](#)
[News Release](#)

Health Insurers Pursue Growth Potential of Individual Market

Nov. 5, 2009

Insurers are pursuing strategies to tap the growth potential of the individual health insurance market, including entering less-regulated markets and developing lower-cost, less-comprehensive products targeting younger, healthy consumers, according to a study released today by HSC.

[Research Brief No. 14](#)
[News Release](#)

Hospital Strategies to Engage Physicians in Quality Improvement

Oct. 15, 2009

While physicians are essential to hospital quality improvement efforts, competing time and financial pressures pose hurdles to physician participation, according to a study released today by HSC.

[Issue Brief No. 127](#)
[News Release](#)

University of California Physician Joins HSC as Visiting Senior Fellow

Oct. 12, 2009

Patrick S. Romano, M.D., M.P.H., has joined the Center for Studying Health System Change (HSC) as a visiting senior fellow while on sabbatical as a professor of medicine and pediatrics at the University of California, Davis School of Medicine.

[News Release](#)

Policy Perspective: Affordable Health Coverage for Near-Elderly Americans

Sept. 30, 2009

Among the policy options to expand health coverage for Americans aged 55 to 64—the near elderly—comprehensive reform of the individual insurance market, coupled with a Medicaid expansion for those with very low incomes, would be the most effective and far-reaching approach, according to a new Policy Perspective from HSC.

[Policy Perspective No. 2](#)
[Media Advisory](#)

Two HSC Articles Appear in September/October *Health Affairs*

Sept. 9, 2009

Two September/October *Health Affairs* articles from HSC researchers explore whether U.S. health care spending is excessive and the role of Medicare governance in provider payment policy.

[Journal Article Abstract](#) - Is Health Spending Excessive? If So, What Can We Do About It?
[Journal Article Abstract](#) - Medicare Governance and Provider Payment Policy
[Media Advisory](#)

A Snapshot of U.S. Physicians: Key Findings from the 2008 Health Tracking Physician Survey

Sept. 3, 2009

Almost 75 percent of physicians were accepting all or most new Medicare patients, the vast majority of physicians contracted with managed care plans, and slightly fewer than six in 10 physicians provided charity care in 2008, according to findings released today from the nationally representative HSC 2008 Health Tracking Physician Survey.

[Data Bulletin No. 35](#)

[News Release](#)

Does Telemonitoring of Patients in the ICU Improve Intensive Care?

Aug. 20, 2009

While nearly 10 percent of U.S. hospital intensive care unit (ICU) beds use advanced telemonitoring known as eICUs, there has never been a systematic evaluation of how the innovative approach to caring for critically ill patients affects quality and costs, according to a study by HSC published today as a Web exclusive in the journal *Health Affairs*.

[Journal Article Abstract](#)

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[⬆ Back to Top](#)

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