

Strengthening and Transforming Primary Care

**Grantmakers in Health Webinar
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GAO

United States Government Accountability Office

Testimony
Before the Committee on Health,
Education, Labor, and Pensions, U.S.
Senate

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PRIMARY CARE PROFESSIONALS

Recent Supply Trends,
Projections, and Valuation
of Services

Statement of A. Bruce Steinwald, Director
Health Care

“Ample research
concludes in recent years
that the nation’s over

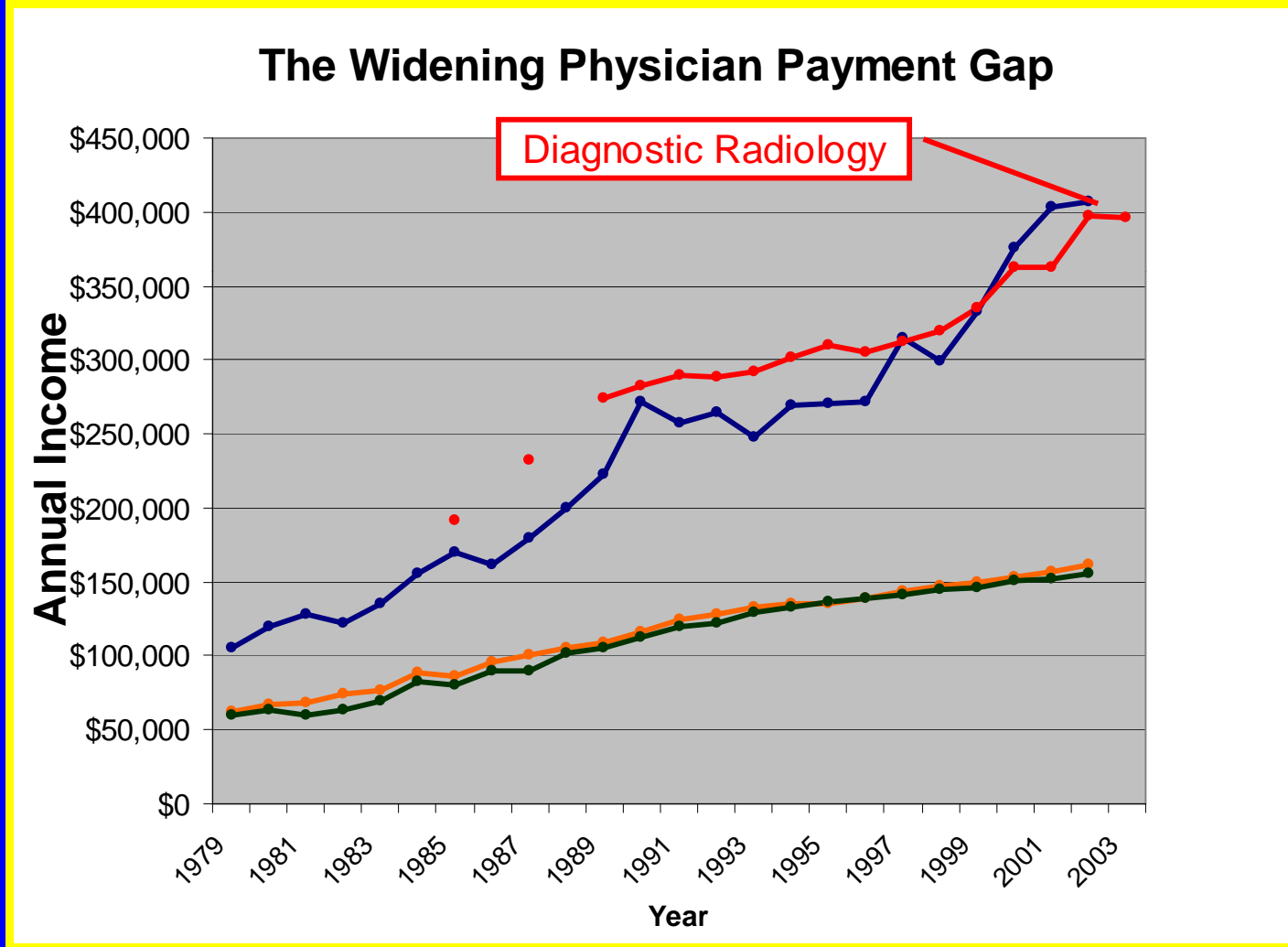
reliance on specialty care services at the
expense of primary care leads to a health
system that is less efficient...research shows
that preventive care, care coordination for the
chronically ill, and continuity of care—all
hallmarks of primary care medicine—can
achieve better health outcomes and cost
savings.”

But the Primary Care Foundation in the US is Crumbling

- Plummeting numbers of new physicians entering primary care and burnout among PCPs
- Growing problems of access to primary care and “medical homelessness”
- Dysfunctional systems that are not delivering the goods in primary care



Partly a Payment Issue



Partly a Systems Issue

- A primary care physician with a panel of 2500 average patients would spend:
 - 7.4 hours per day to deliver all recommended preventive care (Yarnall et al. Am J Public Health 2003;93:635)
 - 10.6 hours per day to deliver all recommended chronic care services (Ostbye et al. Annals of Fam Med 2005;3:209)

Randy MacDonald, Sr VP



House Ways and Means Hearing April 29, 2009

- “I will start with the very last question asked by the committee--what is the single most important thing to fix in healthcare? Primary care. Strengthen primary care -- transform it and pay differently using a model like the Patient Centered Medical Home.”
- Congressman: “And the second issue?”
- “Well, if you don't fix the first issue and do not have a foundation of powerful primary care then you can do nothing else. You have to fix primary care before you can even begin to address a second issue.”

The Multistakeholder Movement for Renewal and Reform of Primary Care

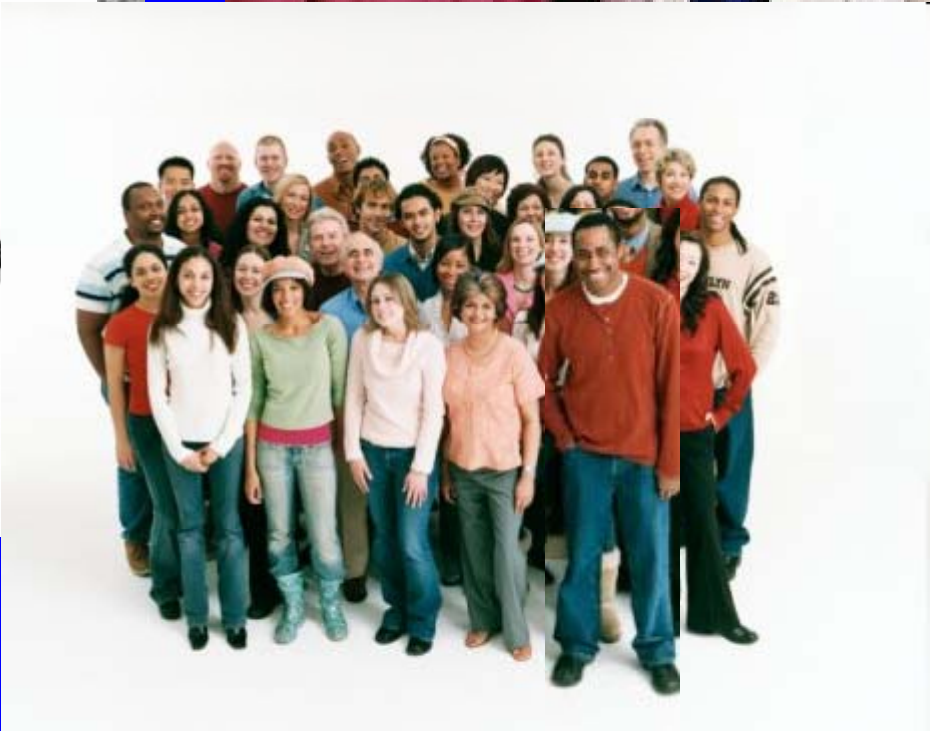
- Large employers/private purchasers
- Consumers/patients/the public
- Government
- Health professionals



Transforming the Delivery of Primary Care: The Patient Centered Medical Home



- Rittenhouse & Shortell: 4 Cornerstones of the PCMH
- Primary Care
 - first Contact (access)
 - Comprehensiveness
 - Continuity
 - Coordination
- Patient-Centered
- New Model Practice
- Payment Reform



Old School vs New School Primary Care

Today's care	Medical home care
My patients are those who make appointments to see me	Our patients are those who are registered in our medical home
Care is determined by today's problem and time available today	Care is determined by a proactive plan to meet health needs, with or without visits
Care varies by scheduled time and memory or skill of the doctor	Care is standardized according to evidence-based guidelines
I know I deliver high quality care because I'm well trained	We measure our quality and make rapid changes to improve it
Patients are responsible for coordinating their own care	A prepared team of professionals works with all patients to coordinate care
It's up to the patient to tell us what happened to them	We track tests and consultations, and follow-up after ED and hospital
Clinic operations center on meeting the doctor's needs	An interdisciplinary team works at the top of our licenses to serve patients

Source: Adapted with permission from F. Daniel Duffy, MD, MACP, Senior Associate Dean for Academics, University of Oklahoma School of Community Medicine.

Outcomes of Implementing Patient Centered Medical Home Interventions:

A Review of the Evidence from Prospective Evaluation Studies in the United States

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A bundant research comparing nations, states and regions within the US, and specific systems of care has shown that health systems built on a solid foundation of primary care deliver more effective, efficient and equitable care than do systems that fail to invest adequately in primary care.^{1,2} However, some policy analysts have questioned whether these largely cross-sectional, observational studies are adequate for making inferences about whether implementing major policy interventions to strengthen primary care as part of health reform would in the relatively short term “bend the cost curve” at the same time as improving quality of care and patient outcomes.

In October 2009, we issued a review of available research evidence from prospective, controlled studies of patient centered medical home interventions in the United States designed to enhance and improve primary care. This report updates our review of patient centered medical home evaluations. Since our 2009 report, findings from several additional

evaluations of patient centered medical home interventions have been released. These include some patient centered medical home initiatives mentioned in our 2009 report which have released updated findings from ongoing assessments, as well as evaluations of new patient centered medical home initiatives not included in last year’s report. In total, the patient centered medical home initiatives included in this report involve more than a million patients cared for in thousands of diverse practice settings, involving both private and public payers.

The findings from our updated review are entirely consistent with those of our 2009 report: investing in primary care patient centered medical homes results in improved quality of care and patient experiences, and reductions in expensive hospital and emergency department utilization. There is now even stronger evidence that investments in primary care can bend the cost curve, with several major evaluations showing that patient centered medical home initiatives have produced a net savings in total health care expenditures for the patients served by these initiatives.

Section 1 of the report provides a summary of the key findings on cost related outcomes. Section 2 provides more background information about each patient centered medical home model and includes data on quality and access in addition to costs, as well as reference citations. The methods used in the review are described in the Appendix.



Patient-Centered Primary Care Collaborative

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<http://www.pcpcc.net/content/pcmh-outcome-evidence-quality>

Review of Recent Evidence on PCMH Outcomes

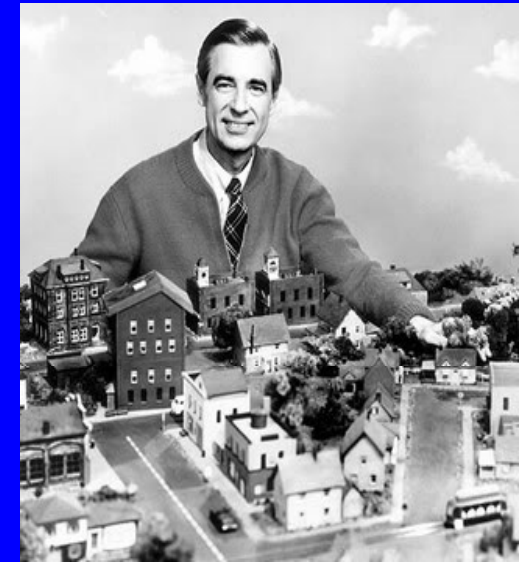
- 14 different initiatives
 - >1 million patients, 1000s of medical practices
 - 5 Integrated delivery systems
 - Group Health, Geisinger, HealthPartners, Intermountain, VHA
 - 3 Private health plan sponsored initiatives
 - BCBS South Carolina, BCBS North Dakota, Metropolitan Health Networks Florida
 - 2 Medicaid state initiatives
 - North Carolina, Colorado
 - 4 Other models

Examples of Cost Outcomes

- Group Health Cooperative: 5% ↓ \$PMPM
- Geisinger: 7% ↓ \$PMPM
- VA: \$593 ↓ cost per patient with COPD
- BCBS South Carolina: 6.5% ↓ \$PMPM
- Metropolitan Health Networks: 20% ↓ \$ per patient
- North Carolina Medicaid/SCHIP: Cumulative savings of \$974.5 million over 6 years (2003-2008)
- Colorado Medicaid: \$215 ↓ cost per child per year

From Medical Homes to Medical Neighborhoods

- High performing primary care necessary but not sufficient
- Concept of “Accountable Care Organizations”
 - True integrated delivery systems (Kaiser, Intermountain Health, VA)
 - Virtual organizations: functional integration



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Perspective
DECEMBER 10, 2009

Primary Care and Accountable Care — Two Essential Elements of Delivery-System Reform

Diane R. Rittenhouse, M.D., M.P.H., Stephen M. Shortell, Ph.D., M.P.H., M.B.A., and Elliott S. Fisher, M.D., M.P.H.

Michael Pollan's Guide to Nutrition

- Eat food
- Not too much
- Mostly plants

Kevin's Guide to Health Care

- Get medical care
- Not too much
- Mostly primary care