



**BlueCross BlueShield
Association**

**An Association of Independent
Blue Cross and Blue Shield Plans**

A Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association Presentation

Safety, Quality, & Pay for Performance

American College of Surgeons
Leadership Conference

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Office of Clinical Affairs

Bad Assumption

- They are the problem
- We are the solution

Safety

- Perverse payment – does not serve you well
- Surgical leadership
 - Orthopedics: critical pathways
 - Surgical training programs
 - STS database, original P4P
 - Anesthesiologists

Safety

- Bill Schwartz, NEJM:
“If it works, do it.
If it doesn’t work, don’t do it.
If you don’t know, don’t do it.”
- Technology Evaluation Center (TEC) Assessments

Safety

- The rush to reimbursement is even faster than the rush to judgment, even in the absence of evidence
 - ABMT
 - LV resections
 - LVR surgery

Evidence Based Medicine

- Lip service: products/techniques are pushed onto the market, absent evidence
 - Carticel
 - Off label drugs use

Evidence Based Medicine

- For geeks like us
- Never understood by the public, policy makers, regulators
 - OPM vis-à-vis FDA
 - Devices vs. drugs

Safety Enhancements: Dos

- Need agreement on what
 - Does it “work” means
 - On whom?
 - In what circumstances?
 - For how long?
 - Is it better than extant therapy
 - Comparative trials
 - Peer control – a new concept
 - Plans are filling a vacuum
 - The task is yours to complete

Safety Enhancements: Don'ts

- Finger point
- Use politics when science fails
- Shill for manufacturers at expense of safety

Safety Enhancements

BCBS Plans and:


- ACC
- STS
- AAFP
- ACA
- ASA
- ACR
- P4P in each specialty

Safety Enhancements:

BCBS Plans and:

- CDC
- FDA
- Pharmaceutical Companies
- DME Manufacturers

Safety Enhancements:

- Performance measurement
- Institute of Medicine
-  Benefits consultants

Public-Private Collaborations

Performance Measurements – Health Plans, Government Entities, Hospitals, Doctors and Employers Engaging with One Another

- Commit to consistence and persistence as well as insistence
- Create a concept for some infrastructure
- Seek harmony between public and private payors;
- Creation of a library of endorsed evidenced based measurements by NQF; and
- Lead by IOM for utility, AHRQ to create data and CMS to minimize differences.

Institute of Medicine (IOM)

- Analysis of extant performance measurement sets (Funded, 2005 completion)
- Analysis of who/what should be in the measurement business (Funded, 2006 completion)
- Definition of ideal benefits keyed to the 20 conditions identified by the IOM. (Partially funded, 2007 completion)

Why the IOM

- NQF
- NCQA
- JCAHO
- URAC
- Leapfrog
- Mercer/Hewitt/etc, “The Cabal”
- Advocacy Groups
- Provider Organizations
- CMS
- VA
- DOD
- Etc., etc., etc.

Leapfrog

- Good goals
- Flawed plan – but ...

Public-Private Collaborations

BCBSA- Leapfrog

- Hospital safety important agenda for today's environment
- Engage Blue Plans with Leapfrog while acknowledging the diversity of Plan resources, operating environments, size and provider communities.

Why Leapfrog?

- Network provider frustration
- Communication/knowledge gap between public and private health care sectors
- “QI/patient safety du jour”
- Market assault by drug and medical device manufacturers

Unmet needs for medically-appropriate solutions exposed

Opportunities

BCBSA and Leapfrog believe the following items are most attainable by individual health plans:

- Educate customers and participating physicians about patient safety issues and quality issues, such as The Leapfrog Group.
- Encourage non-hospital provider entities to improve systems and processes that impact patient safety.
- Encourage contracted hospitals to complete the voluntary Leapfrog Hospital Patient Safety Survey.
- Define a strategy to improve patient safety by identifying and potentially working with multiple stakeholders in the marketplace(s).

Office of Clinical Affairs

- Promote collaboration among physicians and public and private stakeholder groups to maximize potential for measurable improvements in healthcare safety, quality and/or outcomes for covered members

Take Home Message

Vision for Office of Clinical Affairs (OCA)

- Create relationships with physicians that reinforce consumer confidence in the Blues
- Promote public-private collaborations toward measurably improving quality, safety and/or outcomes
- Support evidence-based decision making

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