



Conference Themes

Behavioral Health

- Increasing coordination and integration of behavioral health care within and across the mental health, substance use, medical, and other social service systems
- Improving access, quality, outcomes, and value in mental health and substance use care
- Understanding and fostering recovery for persons with mental and substance use disorders
- Financing mental health and substance use services and treatments
- Fostering evidence-based management, purchasing, and policymaking in mental health and substance use
- Studying the impact of key policy interventions on mental health and substance use care

Child Health

- Understanding and reducing disparities in children's health and health care
- Measuring and improving children's health care quality
- Improving access, quality, and outcomes in pediatric mental/behavioral care
- Informing policy on children's health care
- Improving outcomes for vulnerable children/children with special health care needs
- Leveraging children's context: Family, school, community

Consumer Choices in Health Care

- Effects of consumer-driven health care and cost-sharing on utilization, cost, and quality of care
- The role of value-based benefit design in improving consumer choices
- How consumer choice strategies affect vulnerable populations
- Strategies for increasing consumer engagement
- The impact of comparative cost, effectiveness, and quality information on consumer choices

Coverage & Access

- Coverage stability: Transitions in and out of insurance and between public and private coverage

- Employer responses to rising premiums: Implications for health insurance offers and plan design
- The relationship between insurance coverage and utilization of services
- Insurance coverage options for high risk individuals
- Policy innovations designed to increase insurance coverage and access to care
- Access to care for uninsured adults and children

Disparities

- Health disparities and health care quality
- Health disparities and health care coverage
- Effective interventions to reduce disparities: Clinical practice, policy, community-based and public health interventions
- Root causes of disparities, including geographical and contextual factors
- Measurement and methods in health disparities research
- Health reform and disparities

Gender & Health

- Analysis of the implications of national and state-level health reforms for women
- The intersection of gender, health, and long-term care, with chronic conditions such as heart disease, obesity, disability, HIV, and diabetes
- Emerging research on factors influencing men's health and interactions with the health care system
- Advances in serving women veterans and soldiers
- Implications of state and federal policies on access to reproductive health services
- Gender differences in health care spending, affordability, and utilization
- LGBT health services research and policy issues

Global Health

- Lessons from international comparisons (not single country case studies) in the following areas:
- Measuring aspects of health system performance
 - Assessing and improving the quality of care
 - Delivering complex interventions to aging populations

- Reaching out to marginalized populations
- Responding to changes in the global pharmaceutical market

Health Care Markets & Competition

- Use and effects of regulatory and market-oriented strategies in the private and public sector
- Provider responses to competitive and financial pressures
- Specialty hospitals, physician ownership, and other forms of physician-hospital competition
- Improvements in available quality and price information, and their effect and system performance
- Direct to consumer advertising and health care markets
- Effects of new technology/service offerings on competition and system performance

Health Care Workforce

- Health workforce supply, demand, and distribution
- International issues affecting the health care workforce
- Health workforce need: Access to health care providers for underserved populations
- Team-based and interdisciplinary strategies to deliver care
- Effect of the health workforce on quality of care
- Quality and productivity of health professional education programs

Health Information Technology

- Using incentives to promote HIT adoption: EHRs, e-prescribing, and clinical decision support
- Using EHRs for quality measurement and reporting
- Consumer/patient-focused HIT: Portals, PHRs, and social networking
- Impact of HIT implementation among safety net providers
- Value and sustainability for HIT and HIE
- Workflow and workforce implications of HIT adoption

Long-Term Care

- Innovations encouraging quality and efficiency: Report cards, P4P, workforce, patient centered care, health information and assistive technologies
- Translating research into practice: Policies, incentives, strategies, and reengineering approaches for moving the evidence base to the front line
- Balancing LTC: Formal and informal care, community and institutional care
- Public and private financing of LTC services: Access, affordability, and public private partnerships
- Integrating Medicare and Medicaid for the dually eligible
- Restorative, rehabilitation and end-of-life care in LTC settings

Medicaid, SCHIP & State Health Reform

- Issues and evidence related to SCHIP and its reauthorization
- Renewal and retention of public coverage
- Impacts of Medicaid and SCHIP on the health and well-being of children
- Expanding Medicaid managed care to beneficiaries with disabilities
- Approaches to controlling Medicaid and SCHIP costs (e.g., managing high-cost cases and consumer-directed health care)
- Evidence on state efforts to promote quality of care in Medicaid and SCHIP
- Using Medicaid and SCHIP as the foundation for expanding coverage (including buy-ins for higher-income groups)

Medicare

- The Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit: Lessons learned and next steps
- The role of private plans in Medicare: Implications for beneficiaries and the Medicare program
- Improving Medicare for vulnerable populations, including beneficiaries who are dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid and others with low incomes and racial/ethnic minorities
- Strategies for managing care and costs for Medicare's chronically ill, high-cost beneficiaries
- Provider payment reforms and other strategies for improving the quality and efficiency of Medicare

Military & Veterans Health Care

- Substance abuse and mental health in the military and afterward
- Poly-trauma and traumatic brain injury: New challenges in recovery from combat
- Caring for she who served: The special needs of women soldiers and veterans
- Caring for older veterans: Assuring the right care in the right place
- Adoption of new technology: Lessons from the VA and the military

- Cost and cost-effectiveness of federal health care: How integrated delivery systems make a difference

Obesity Prevention & Treatment

- The causes of obesity (e.g., genetics, environment, cultural)
- The consequences of obesity: Medical, health care costs, labor market, and social
- Prevention of obesity
- Treatment of obesity: (e.g. medical, surgical, behavioral interventions)
- Political economy of obesity
- Applicable lessons from other public health successes (e.g., tobacco)

Organizational Performance & Management

- Evidence based management: Bridging the gap between health care management research and management practice
- Understanding and managing multiple dimensions of organizations and their performance, such as culture, efficiency, quality of care
- Organizational redesign and improvement approaches, including adoption and implementation of information technology and evidence based practices
- Organizational responses to pay for performance and other provider payment innovations
- Approaches to measuring, improving, and rewarding "patient-centeredness"
- Developing, implementing, and evaluating new models of care delivery

Prevention & Treatment of Chronic Illness

- Measuring quality of chronic disease management care
- Population management of chronic diseases
- Community approaches to chronic disease management
- Chronic mental diseases and treatment challenges
- Interdisciplinary approaches to chronic disease management
- Disparity related differences in rates or treatment of chronic diseases

Public Health

- Effects of organizational, economic, and legal factors on public health system ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from public health emergencies
- Effectiveness of population health strategies to promote health and reduce health disparities
- Measuring quality in public health practice and estimating the impact of quality improvement approaches
- Cost, efficiency, cost-effectiveness, and ROI of public health services and systems
- Effects of organizational change and

innovation in public health: regionalization, consolidation, intergovernmental relationships, and public/private joint ventures

- Integration and impact of technology in public health practice

Quality & Efficiency: Measurement

- Measuring patient, family, and workforce perceptions of organizational quality and safety
- Automated methods for measuring quality and safety
- Measurement challenges in population-based improvement
- Using time-order measurement methods in quality improvement
- Mixed methods and context sensitive evaluation of quality improvement
- Public reporting of quality and safety measures
- Measuring the process of care
- Aggregate whole systems measures of quality and safety in hospitals
- Measurement for learning, accountability, and research

Quality & Efficiency: Organized Processes

- Disease management performed by provider organizations vs. performed by health plans or disease management companies
- The effectiveness of quality improvement collaboratives
- The effectiveness of different types of "medical home"
- Quality improvement using the Chronic Care Model
- Organized processes to improve quality in long-term care
- Organized processes used by medical practices or hospitals to improve quality

Quality & Efficiency: Policies & Incentives

- The impact of financial incentives, such as pay for performance on quality or efficiency of care
- Unintended consequences of financial incentives on access, quality, or long term costs of care
- Evaluation of public reporting and other policy incentives to improve quality, safety, and efficiency of care
- Impact of policies and incentives on disparities in care, including impact on providers who care for poor and minority populations
- Global efforts and policies to improve quality and efficiency
- Behavioral response of providers to policies and incentives directed towards improving care