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## Rural Hospital Strategies for a Value Based Future

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## Agenda

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- Rural Hospital Context
- Transfer of Financial Risk
- Redefine and Redesign
- Toolbox for Value



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## Converging Forces

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- Price reduction threats and volume reduction pressures
- Changes in payment policies and financing sources
- Continually evolving quality measures and expectations
- Alternative models of care (e.g., telehealth, different care sites, new providers types)
- Local health care collaborations and regional affiliations



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## Affordable Care Act (and More)

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- New ACA emphases
  - Insurance coverage
  - Primary care
  - Financing innovation (incremental)
- Major ACA *themes*
  - Demand for health care *value*
  - Transfer of financial risk
  - Collaboration and competition
- Not just the ACA!
  - Macro economic forces will continue to drive health care reform



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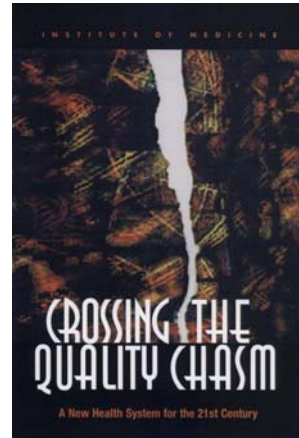


## Value – IOM Six Aims

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Health care should be:

- Safe
- Effective
- Patient-Centered
- Timely
- Efficient
- Equitable



Source: Corrigan, et al (eds.). *Crossing the Quality Chasm*. Committee on the Quality of Health Care in America. National Academies Press. Washington, DC. 2001.

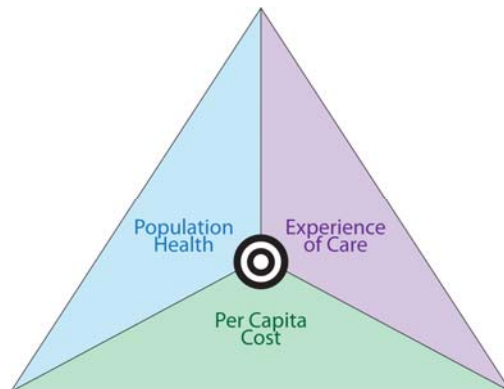


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## The Triple Aim

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## Value Equation

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$$\text{Value} = \frac{\text{Quality} + \text{Experience}}{\text{Cost}}$$

- Safe
- Effective
- Patient-centered
- Timely
- Efficient
- Equitable

- Better patient care
- Improved community health
- Lower per capita cost



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## Unacceptable Healthcare Value

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- **Quality** suboptimal
  - Wide geographic variation
- **Cost** unsustainable
  - Highest cost in the world
- **Waste** intolerable (20%)\*
  - Care delivery, care coordination, overtreatment, administration, pricing failures, fraud and abuse
- Our volume-based payment system is a significant problem



\*Source: Berwick and Hackbarth. Eliminating Waste in US Health Care. *JAMA*, April 11, 2012. Vol. 307, No. 14.



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## Tyranny of Fee-for-Service

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- “Successful” physicians and hospitals seek to maximize:
  - Office visits per day
  - Average daily inpatient census
  - Admission percent from the ER
  - Profitability
- Is this how to identify and reward a great physician or a world-class hospital?
- **No, but what to do?**



## The Value Conundrum

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*You can always count on Americans to do the right thing – after they've tried everything else.*

- Fee-for-service
- Capitation
- Market
- Single payer
- Self-police
- **Regardless of what we try, we tend to “follow the money”**



## Form Follows Finance

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- How we deliver care is predicated on how we are paid for care
- Health care reform is changing both
- Fundamentally, reform involves a **transfer of financial risk** from payers to providers



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- Redefine and Redesign
- Toolbox for Value



## Risk Assessment is Ubiquitous

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- Risk is present when an outcome is uncertain or unpredictable
- Types of health care risk
  - Random
  - Insurance
  - Political
  - Medical Care
- Where/how can hospitals:
  - Influence or control risk
  - Reduce risk of harm
  - Optimize risk of benefit



## The Risk of Inertia

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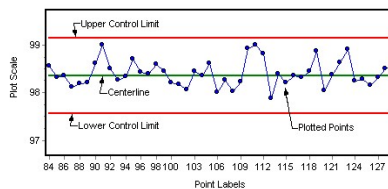
Because  
we've ALWAYS  
done it that way!

Source: Institute for HealthCare Improvement  
and Sharon Vitousek, MD

## Random

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- Normal variation
- Rolling the dice
- Roulette v. poker
- No control, but important to recognize



## Insurance Risk

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- Insurance risks
  - Demographic change
  - Technological innovations
  - Prior health status
  - Cost inflation
- Cost is the actuarial metric
- Minimal control, but predictable

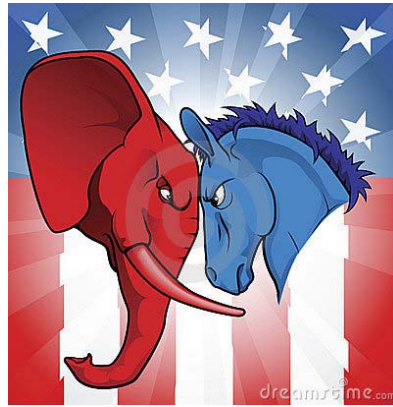




## Political Risk

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- Rules, regulations, and legislation
- Profound impact on health care delivery and finance
- Modest control, often via advocacy avenues



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## Medical Care Risk

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- Medical care *variation*
  - Diagnostic accuracy
  - Care plan implementation
  - Guideline use compliance
  - Pharmaceutical choice
  - Procedural skill
  - Efficient resource use
- How our choices influence health care **value**
- Greatest control, how we deliver care

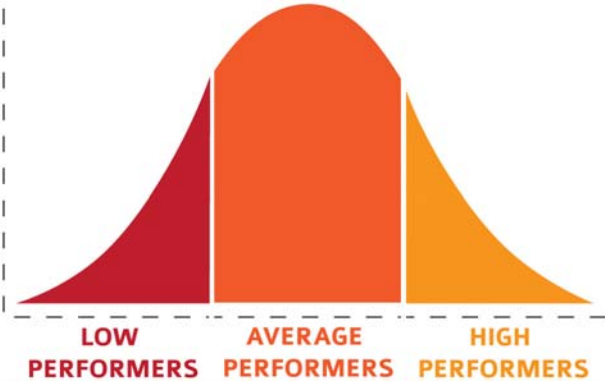


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## Medical Care Variation = Risk



LOW PERFORMERS      AVERAGE PERFORMERS      HIGH PERFORMERS


Variation suggests a risk for underperformance, but also an opportunity to excel

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## Drive Out (Most) Variation

- Measure individual provider performance and discuss
  - Learn from one another
- Care should vary by unique *patient* needs, not by
  - Doctor or nurse
  - Day of week, or time of day
- Not cookbook medicine, many opportunities for
  - Clinical judgment
  - Thoughtful interactions
  - The “art” of medicine



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## Rural Risk?

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- **Redefine and Redesign**
- Toolbox for Value



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## Are We Post Turtles?

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- The Post Turtle dilemma
  - I don't know how I got up here.
  - I don't know how to get down.
  - And I don't know how to avoid getting put up here again.
- The answer is No!
  - We need not be paralyzed and helpless Post Turtles
- We can *redefine* our future and *redesign* our operations



## Volume to Value Transition

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- Bath water
  - Cost-based reimbursement
  - Necessary providers (OIG)
  - Few quality demands
  - Inefficiency tolerated
- Turning up the heat
  - Decreased per unit price
  - Pressure to reduce volumes
  - Quality demands
  - Competitive market
- How to avoid getting cooked?



## Redefine Our Future

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- Understand the current rural health care milieu
- Acknowledge the paradox of quality, experience, and cost
- Envision and articulate a different future – across the volume to value gap
- Plan for transition challenges
- Lead with focus and clarity

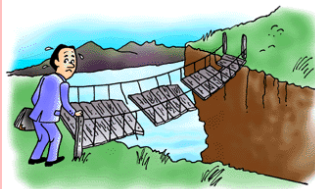


## The Volume to Value Gap

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### Volume-based

- Pay-for-service (volumes)
- Cost-based reimbursement
- Hospital/physician independence
- Inpatient focus
- Stand alone care systems
- Illness care



### Value-based

- Pay-for-results (quality/efficiency)
- Shared risk
- Partnerships and collaborations
- Continuum of care consideration
- Community health improvement (HIT)
- Wellness care

## Transition Requires New Foci

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- Inpatient Beds → Clinics (and more)
  - Expanded/robust primary care
  - Workplace nursing and SNF/ALF clinics
  - Mobile clinics and telehealth
- Illness → Wellness
  - Health Risk Assessments
  - Community Health Assessments
  - Health coaching and care coordination
- Charges → Costs
  - Revenue becomes covered lives
  - Charge master becomes cost master
  - “Trapped equity” is a concern



## Redesign our Operations

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- Organization chart
- Capital budgets
- Job descriptions
- Compensation
- Accounting
- Clinical care sites/modes
- Provide or partner





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## Holy Family Hosp. Transformation

Hospital	Physicians & NP/PA	Senior Leaders	Mission Focus	Recognition
2001: 90-bed hospital	2001: 35 employed providers	2001: 10 senior leaders	2001: Focus on the sick population	2001: Locally recognized
2012: 35-bed hospital	2012: 90 employed providers	2012: 5 senior leaders	2012: Focus on wellness & prevention	2012: Nationally recognized for safety, innovation and thought leadership

Source: Graphic provided by Mark Herzog, CEO, Holy Family Memorial Hospital, Manitowoc, Wisconsin, 2013.


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## Payers Are Getting Smarter

Economists: Total Cost = Price x Quantity  
~~Health Care: Revenue = Unit Price x Volume~~

Not forever!

<p><u>Current Way</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Negotiate <i>unit price</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Discount on charges</li> <li>■ CPT codes</li> <li>■ Per diems</li> <li>■ Case rates (DRGs)</li> </ul> </li> <li>■ Hospital success strategy           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Negotiate for high unit prices, then optimize volumes</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><u>Future Way</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Negotiate <i>total cost of care</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Bundled payment</li> <li>■ Shared risk (ACOs)</li> <li>■ Capitation (beyond medical care)</li> </ul> </li> <li>■ Hospital success strategy           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Negotiate high per capita rate, favorable base period, and accurate risk adjustment, then optimize community health</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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## Right place, time, provider, price

Hospital Stay	\$200
Office Visit	\$2,000
ER Visit	\$20,000



Better yet, how about care in the home, workplace, or not at all?  
Preventive care may reduce the need for acute care!




  

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## Hospital Transformation

- How do we move toward delivering value when our revenue is primarily volume-driven?
- How do we not get “soaked” during the transition?
- We can “test the waters” with a new set of tools.





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- **Toolbox for Value**



## Tool Box for Delivering Value

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- **Implement**
  - Fee-for-service attention
  - Performance measurement
  - Care quality and patient safety
  - Operational efficiency
- **Plan**
  - Medical staff development
  - Patient-centered medical home
  - Community engagement
- **Prepare**
  - Quality rewards
  - Regionalization
  - Clinical integration



## A Continuum of Value Strategies

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- 10 strategies, but order and timelines will vary
- A *continuous* transformation
- Broad organizational impact, longitudinal over time, intense leadership attention
- Actionable plans
  - Objectives
  - Timelines
  - Accountabilities
  - Resources



## Get Your FFS House in Order

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### Attention to

- Market share
- Expense management
- Revenue cycle
- Cost report accuracy
- Payer contracts
- Purchasing contracts
- Inventory management
- *Appropriate* volumes



## Measure Performance

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- Measure and report performance
  - We attend to what we measure
  - *Attention* is the currency of leadership
- Educate Board, providers, and staff regarding performance
  - We are all “above average,” right?
  - Let the data set you free
- When possible, control the data
  - Market share
  - What you are paid by payers
  - Comparisons to competitors



## Care Quality and Patient Safety

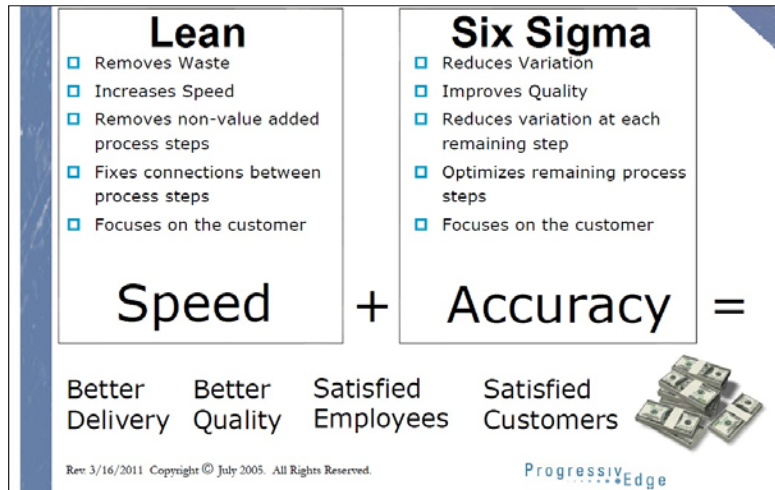
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- Clinical quality, patient safety, and the patient experience
  - Expectation: “Always above the mean. Always improving.”
- Leadership priority
  - Board meetings
  - Quality Improvement Officer (QIO)
- Quality/safety performance
  - Present information, not data
  - Tailor to your audience
  - Benchmarks are only a snapshot



## Efficiency

40



Resource: Jay Arthur. *Lean Six Sigma for Hospitals: Simple Steps to Fast, Affordable, and Flawless Healthcare*. 2011



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## Medical Staff Relationships

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**The hospital CEO's most important job is developing and nurturing good medical staff relationships.**



Source: Personal conversation with John Sheehan, CPA, MBA



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## Physicians

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- Physicians see themselves as independent autonomous, and in control!
  - The antithesis of team work?
- Yet, hospital-physician alignment is essential to delivering value
- Need accountable physician leaders to devise new care models and create sustainability
- Primary care could potentially control large amounts of dollars, so...
  - Involve physicians early and often
  - Recognize and act upon the cultural and personality differences between physicians and administrators
  - $(\$5,000/\text{pt}/\text{yr} \times 2,000 \text{ pts}/\text{phys} \times 20 \text{ phys} = \$200 \text{ million}/\text{yr})$



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## Deep Medical Staff Engagement

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- Educate, mentor, and engage physician leaders
  - Clinical co-management expected to grow
- Include physicians in key governance decisions (beyond traditional clinical, credentialing, and quality committee work)
  - Offer direct ability to influence outcomes
- Provide data transparency, but do not overstate discrete measurements
- Offer rewarding, yet reasonable salary based on what physicians identify as desirable traits
- Always follow-up as promised (even if an implicit promise!)



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## Shifting Health Care Payments

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## Medical Home Definition

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*Patient-centered medical homes are primary care practices that offer around-the-clock access to coordinated care and a team of providers that values patients' needs.*

- Access and communication
- Coordination of care
- Patient and family involvement
- Clinical information systems
- Revised payment systems



Sources: Commonwealth Fund and 2007 Joint Principles of Patient-Centered Medical Homes.

## Medical Home Quotes

46

- All team members practice at the top (optimum) of their license and experience
- Best evidence is the best and only way we deliver care
- Care is the same, regardless of the provider
- Continuous performance improvement of our care is rigorously driven by data
- There are no non-compliant patients, only those we have not reached
- An EHR is critical to proactively managing patient/population health
- Let care protocols do (at least some of) the work (e.g., lab orders, med refills, vaccines)



Crete Physicians Clinic  
Crete, Nebraska

## Connect Community Resources

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- What is available locally to improve health care value?
  - Public Health
  - Social Service
  - Agency on Aging
  - Community health workers
  - Care transition programs
  - Churches and foundations
- Do not duplicate!
  - Collaborations are less expensive than new hospital services – and build good will

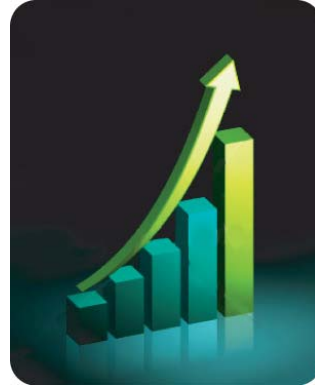




## Get Paid for Quality

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- Aggressively apply for value-based demonstrations and grants
- Negotiate with third party insurers to pay for quality
- Consider self-pay and hospital employees first for care management
  - Direct care to lower cost areas with equal (or better) quality
  - Reduces Medicare cost dilution



## Regionalization

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- Act locally; think regionally
- Economies of scale demand a contracted cottage industry
  - Yet, future payment linked to *local* covered lives
- Goal: To care for populations expertly, efficiently, equitably
  - Options are optional
  - Affiliation is not an end in itself
  - Independence is not a mission
  - Success measured by *clinical integration*



Resource: Lupica and Geffner. Enlightened Interdependence. *Trustee*. November/December 2012.



## Rural Regionalization – ACOs

50

- 79 Medicare ACOs operate in both metro and rural counties
- 9 Medicare ACOs operate exclusively in rural counties
- Medicare ACOs operate in **16.7 %** of all rural counties
- Even if you do not participate as an ACO, you will compete with an ACO
  - Future of ACOs as a program is uncertain
  - But competing on *value* will endure



Source: RUPRI Center research. 2013.

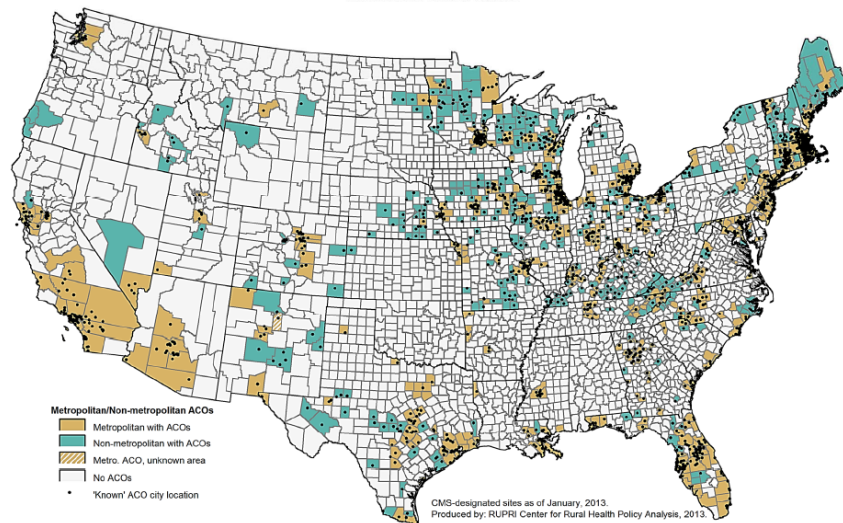


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## Rural (teal) Counties with ACOs

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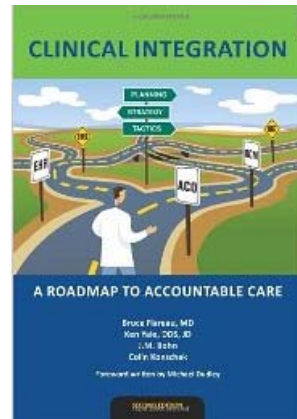
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## Clinical Integration

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- Clinical data sharing in real-time
- Standardized clinical care protocols
- Consistent clinical performance measures and reporting
- Clear team member responsibilities across multiple facilities
- Sense of professional camaraderie among disparate organizations
- Aligned incentives for regional *population health* improvement



## A Resource to Help

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- Rural Health System Analysis and Technical Assistance
  - Assess the rural implications of policies and demonstrations
  - Develop tools and resources to assist rural providers and communities
  - Inform and disseminate rural health care innovations
- Share an innovation with RHSATA that has moved your organization (or another) toward delivering value.
- Continue to be a leadership voice for rural health care value.
  - Our glass is at least half full. A positive attitude is infectious!



[www.RuralHealthValue.org](http://www.RuralHealthValue.org)