Putting it All Together: The Critical Role of Patients

ConsumerReports

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Consumer Reports
December 11, 2012

Disclosures

- Employed by Consumers Reports:
 - Independent of industry, non profit, non partisan, consumer advocacy organization.
 - Multimedia company, publisher of Consumer Reports, ConsumerReports.org
- 20 million readers a month, older, affluent, well educated, "savvy buyers"
- Focused for 76 years on providing an alternative perspective to advertising and promotion

The New Hork Times

© 2008 The New York Times

NEW YORK, MONDAY, AUGUST 25, 2008

Crossword | Edited by Will Shortz

12. Consumer Reports employee



ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

5 Reeked

India

empire

s To the

degree

6 Language of

or kitten

39 Pig's place

wood

spread

42 RR stop

40 Moth-repellent

41 Lower-priced

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10 Got along

11 Dead's opposite

12 Consumer Reports 7 Of an old Andean employee 14 Zest

> 17 Baldwin of "30 Rock"

21 Kind of scheme that's fraudulent 22 Like the sky at

dawn or sunset 23 Aim

24 Boston ___ 25 Leave out

26 Like some delicate lingerie 30 "| get it!"

31 The "p" in m.p.g. 32 Normandy town

in W.W. II fighting 33 College freshman, usually

34 Experts

36 Eight-piece band 37 Accomplishment

38 Ripped 42 Meager

43 Photographer

44 Ripening agent 45 Strokes on the green

Ryan or Tatum 47 Barton of the **Red Cross**

R

48 Water park slide

49 "Men in Trees" actress Anne

so Inquired

53 Father of Cain and Abel

54 Hill you might drive a buggy over

55 Chooses, with

57 Quill, sometimes

58 Eisenhower years, e.g.

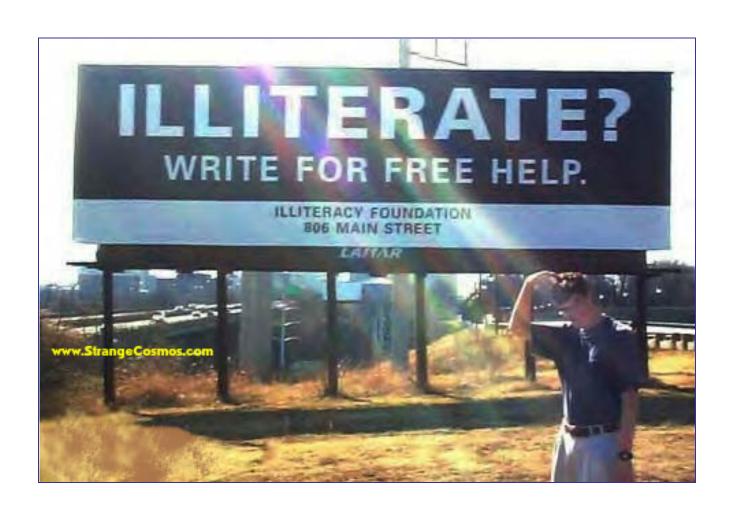
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"If I don't think it's going to work, will it still work?"

Systems are perfectly designed to get the results they achieve.



Shared Priorities??

- Stimulate/Facilitate a culture of improvement....in practice....and in consumer understanding and participation.
- Support professionalism
 - Altruism (putting patients' needs first)
 - Self Regulation
 - Transparency (to peers, patients and the public)

Consumer Reports Approach

- Trust...Independence...Transparency
- Confrontation...Collaboration
- Partnerships....that push and pull
- If you break it.....you need to fix it.
- Market tools
 - Overuse strategies
 - Comparisons

OVERUSE

Choosing Wisely is an initiative of the **ABIM Foundation** to help physicians and patients engage in conversations about the overuse of tests and procedures and support physician efforts to help patients make smart and effective care choices.





Components of the Campaign

Messengers and Collaborators

 30+ specialty societies, Consumer Reports, multiple consumer organizations—and growing

Communicate Messages

Specialty societies, Consumer Reports, and ABIM Foundation

Activate

Concrete action around unnecessary tests and procedures

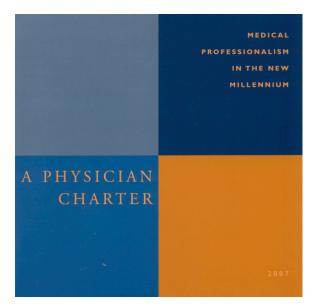


Why stewardship? Why now?

- Health care expenditures are increasing at unsustainable rates
 - Commonwealth Fund National Scorecard on U.S. Health System Performance, 2011
- There is waste in the health care system—some say as much as 30%
 - Jack Wennberg, Dartmouth Center for the Evaluative Clinical Sciences.
- One third of all physicians acquiesce to patient requests for tests and procedures—even when they know they are not necessary
 - Campbell EG, et al. Professionalism in medicine: results of a national survey of physicians. Ann Intern Med. 2007; 147(11):795-802
- Physician decisions account for 80% of all health care expenditures
 - Crosson FJ. Change the microenvironment. Modern Healthcare and The Commonwealth Fund [Internet]. 2009; Apr 27

An initiative of the ABIM Foundation

ACP Foundation/ABIM Foundation/EFIM Physician Charter



Fundamental Principles

- Primacy of patient welfare
- Patient autonomy
- Social justice

A Commitment to

- Professional competence
- Honesty with patients
- Patient confidentiality
- Maintaining appropriate relations with patients
- Improving quality of care
- Improving access to care
- A just distribution of finite resources
- Scientific knowledge
- Maintaining trust by managing conflicts of interest
- Professional responsibilities



What is the Physician's Role in Choosing Wisely?

The *Charter's* commitment to a just distribution of finite resources specifically calls on **physicians to be responsible** for the appropriate allocation of resources and to scrupulously avoid superfluous tests and procedures.



Medicine's Ethical Responsibility for Health Care Reform — The Top Five List

"A Top 5 list also has the advantage that if we restrict ourselves to the **most egregious** causes of waste, we can demonstrate to a skeptical public that we are genuinely protecting patients' interests and not simply 'rationing' health care, regardless of the benefit, for cost-cutting purposes."

Howard Brody, MD, PhD

New England Journal of Medicine



Call to the Profession: Where are the Health Care Cost Savings?

Deficit pressures are making cost control inevitable. It will only be successful if physicians stop looking to others to find solutions and focus on approaches that improve the care for patients with chronic illnesses.

-Ezekiel J. Emanuel, MD, PhD

VIEWPOINT

Where Are the Health Care Cost Savings?



Ezekiel J. Emanuel, MD, PhD

lion per year on health care. It is not just the level of spending that is of concern but the rate of growth over time. During the last 30 years, the growth in US health care spending has been 2.1% more per year than growth in gross domestic product (GDP). This is why the percentage of GDP attributable to health has nearly doubled in 30 years. At this rate, projections suggest that by 2040 1 of every 3 dollars willbe spent on health care and by 2080, it will be nearly 1 of every 2 dollars. In 2010, the entire GDP of France was \$2.58 trillion, the world's fifth-largest economy. That means US health care spending is equivalent to the world's fifth-largest economy.

False Cost Control

Physicians often gravitate to cost control proposals that do not involve their own role and changing their practices, whereas policymakers may propose solutions that will not significantly reduce costs. In assessing cost control proposals, 2 criteria are fundamental. One criterion is that 2% growth in health care costs over growth in GDP amounts to \$52 billion a year, serious proposals are aimed at reducing the growth in health care costs to 1% over GDP growth. Consequently, anything short of \$26 bil-1% over GDP growth. Consequently, anything short of 3.20 bil-lion in savings is not credible. A second criterion is that cost control proposals should transform the delivery of care and lead to improved quality as well as patient and physician satisfaction. Malpractice Costs. Physicians frequently cite malprac-tice premiums and the cost of defensive medicine as drivers

analysis estimated that a package of reforms consisting of a S250000 cap on nonceonomic dimages, a \$500 000 cap on particular of the memory of the memory of the status of limitations (I year for dails) and I were for shallown) and in the status of limitations (I year for dails) and I were for shallown) and in the status of limitations (I year for dails) and I were for shallown) and in the status of limitations (I year for dails) and I were for shallown) are shallown. for adults and 3 years for children), and implementing fairshare liability could reduce malpractice premiums by 10% (\$3.5 billion per year) and reduce defensive medicine for the entire health care system by 0.3% (\$7 billion), for a total savings of approximately \$11 billion or 0.5% of national health care spending per year.3 No reliable data indicate that other mal-

practice reforms would generate cost savings.

Importantly, more than 30 states have instituted similar caps and limits. If these measures have reduced costs, they are inindicate that the practice environment is better. There is little research on the effects of malpractice caps on quality, although 1 study cited by the CBO suggested that caps lowered the quality

Author Audio Interview available at www.jama.com.

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of care. 4 This suggests that limits on malpractice liability would not likely both reduce costs and improve quality.

Insurance Company Profits. Another proposed cost con-trol mechanism focuses on the profits of insurance companies. In 2010, the combined profits of the 5 largest insurers— Wellpoint, United, Aetna, Humana, and Cigna—increased sub-stantially, reaching \$11.7 billion. It may be worthy to reduce

these profits, but in the scheme of \$2.6 trillion in national health care spending, this amount constitutes just 0.5% of total spending. Drug Costs. In 2010, the United States spent \$262 billion on prescription drugs, 10% of total health care spending. There is a worrisome trend that new drugs and biologics costing tens of thousands of dollars per year do not provide cures, but achieve only modest disease benefit. One approach to cost savings is drug reimportation, which would allow brand-name drugs sold at lower prices in Canada or other countries to be imported into the United States. Assuming the logistical and supply problems were solved, the CBO estimated that reimportation could save approximately 1% of drug costs, an insignificant \$2.6 billion.6

Another approach might be to substitute generic drugs for brand-namedrugs. Between 2004 and 2009, use of generic drugs increased substantially from 57% to 75% of all prescriptions. Despite this change, costs for health care and for prescription drugs have both increased by approximately 25% during thos years. By increasing generic prescription levels to 100%—an unrealistic level—CRO estimated that an additional \$900 million could be saved for Medicare Part D in 2009.8 Of the \$502 billionspent on Medicare in 2009, this would amount to a sav-ings of less than 0.2%. The US Department of Health and Hu-man Services recently concluded that increased savings from

US health care system expends excessive amounts on so-called "million dollar babies"—patients who spend long periods in intensive care units and require tracheostomies, gastrostomy tubes, and myriad other interventions. However, an analysis only 255 patients had consumed more than \$1 million each on health care expenditures in 2010. Extrapolating to the entire health care system suggests these patients use 0.5% of all health care costs. Even if all costs attributed to care of these "million sufficient to counter other factors increasing costs. In addition, dollar babies" could be eliminated, there are not enough of such physicians in those states, such as California, do not seem to patients to significantly reduce health care spending. Expand ing this group to patients who consume more than \$250 000



How the Lists Were Created

- Societies were free to determine the process for creating their lists
- Each item was within the specialty's purview and control
- Procedures should be used frequently and/or carry a significant cost
- Should be generally-accepted evidence to support each recommendation
- Process should be thoroughly documented and publicly available upon request



Actions



American College of Radiology



Five Things Physicians and Patients Should Question



Don't do imaging for uncomplicated headache.

Imaging headache patients absent specific risk factors for structural disease is not likely to change management or improve outcome. Those patients with a significant likelihood of structural disease requiring immediate attention are detected by clinical screens that have been validated in many settings. Many studies and clinical practice guidelines concur. Also, incidental findings lead to additional medical procedures and expense that do not improve patient well-being.



Don't image for suspected pulmonary embolism (PE) without moderate or high pre-test probability of PE.

While deep vein thrombosis (DVT) and PE are relatively common clinically, they are rare in the absence of elevated blood d-Dimer levels and certain specific risk factors. Imaging, particularly computed tomography (CT) pulmonary angiography, is a rapid, accurate and widely available test, but has limited value in patients who are very unlikely, based on serum and clinical criteria, to have significant value. Imaging is helpful to confirm or exclude PE only for such patients, not for patients with low pre-test probability of PE.



Avoid admission or preoperative chest x-rays for ambulatory patients with unremarkable history and physical exam.

Performing routine admission or preoperative chest x-rays is not recommended for ambulatory patients without specific reasons suggested by the history and/or physical examination findings. Only 2 percent of such images lead to a change in management. Obtaining a chest radiograph is reasonable if acute cardiopulmonary disease is suspected or there is a history of chronic stable cardiopulmonary disease in a patient older than age 70 who has not had chest radiography within six months.



Don't do computed tomography (CT) for the evaluation of suspected appendicitis in children until after ultrasound has been considered as an option.

Although CT is accurate in the evaluation of suspected appendicitis in the pediatric population, ultrasound is nearly as good in experienced hands. Since ultrasound will reduce radiation exposure, ultrasound is the preferred initial consideration for imaging examination in children. If the results of the ultrasound exam are equivocal, it may be followed by CT. This approach is cost-effective, reduces potential radiation risks and has excellent accuracy, with reported sensitivity and spedicity of 94 percent.



Don't recommend follow-up imaging for clinically inconsequential adnexal cysts.

Simple cysts and hemorrhagic cysts in women of reproductive age are almost always physiologic. Small simple cysts in postmenopausal women are common, and clinically incorresquential. Ovarian cancer, while typically cystic, does not arise from these benign-appearing cysts. After a good quality ultrasound in women of reproductive age, don't recommend follow-up for a classic corpus luteum or simple cysts on greatest diameter. Use 1 cm as a threshold for simple cysts in postmenopausal women.

These liters are provided solely for informational purposes and are not intended as a substitute for consultation with a medical professional. Patients with any specific questions about the items on this list or their individual situation should consult their physician.

Choosing Wisely Lists Announced April 4, 2012



The New York Times













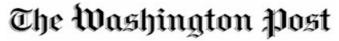
Medscape







































Choosing Wisely Partners

Societies Released Lists in April 2012

- American Academy of Allergy Asthma & Immunology
- American Academy of Family Physicians
- American College of Cardiology
- American College of Physicians
- American College of Radiology
- American Gastroenterological Association
- American Society of Nephrology
- American Society of Nuclear Cardiology
- American Society of Clinical Oncology

Consumer Groups

Through Partnership with Consumer Reports

- AARP
- Alliance Health Networks
- Leapfrog Group
- Midwest Business Group on Health
- Minnesota Health Action Network
- National Business Coalition on Health
- National Business Group on Health
- National Center for Farmworker Health
- National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization
- National Partnership for Women & Families
- Pacific Business Group on Health
- SEIU
- Union Plus
- Wikipedia

Societies Releasing Lists in Fall 2012

- American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine
- American Academy of Neurology
- American Academy of Ophthalmology
- American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery
- American Academy of Pediatrics
- American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
- American College of Rheumatology
- American Geriatrics Society
- American Society for Clinical Pathology
- American Society of Echocardiography
- American Urological Association
- Society of Cardiovascular Computed Tomography
- Society of Hospital Medicine
- Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging
- Society of Thoracic Surgeons
- Society of Vascular Medicine

Societies Releasing Lists in 2013

- American College of Surgeons
- American Headache Society



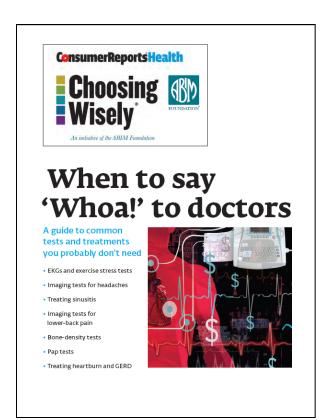


What's Next?

- Next scheduled announcement in Feb 2013 of Five Things Physicians and Patients Should Question
- Continue the conversations among physicians and between physicians and patients
- Continued rollout of Consumer Reports patient-oriented descriptions of Choosing Wisely lists



Consumer Reports



Consumer Reports is a partner in Choosing Wisely and will support the effort by creating patientfriendly materials based on the society recommendations and engaging a coalition of consumer communication partners to disseminate content and messages about appropriate use to the communities they serve.





Robust Topic Themes

- Screening tests
 - EKG
 - Exercise test
 - Pap smear
 - Bone density
 - Heart imaging
 - Colon cancer
- Diagnosis of common symptoms
 - Low back pain
 - Headache
 - Allergy
 - Fainting

- Preoperative evaluations
 - Chest Xray
 - Heart imaging
- Common treatments
 - Antibiotics
 - Heartburn meds
 - Anti-inflammatories
- Disease approach
 - Cancer
 - Chronic kidney failure/dialysis





Impact of Topics

- Large volume of unnecessary screening tests being performed
- Many of the most common symptoms targeted—back pain, URI, headache, allergy, heartburn
- Three of the most common drug classes selected
- Overall---millions of decisions, billions of dollars





Choosing Wisely Consumer Content

- 2 page consumer friendly translations of consumer oriented topics
- Low literacy English versions of selected topics
- Longer "stories" about more complex topics: dialysis, cancer
 - Cancer (ASCO) "Even in cancer more may not be better"
- Spanish translations of selected topics
- Videos of selected topics





Our Approach

- Cobrand information to build trust
- Develop content with professional societies using a mutual consent process
- Provide alternatives to the overused service/product
- Develop plain language versions
- Disseminate via a large consumer network





Sample Content





EKGs and exercise stress tests

When you need them for heart disease—and when you don't

f you have chest pain or other symptoms of heart disease, an electrocardiogram (EKG) or exercise stress test can be lifesaving. The same is true if you have a history of heart disease or are at very high risk for it. But in other cases. you should think twice. Here's why.

The tests usually aren't necessary for people without symptom

With an EKG, electrodes attached to your chest record your heart's electrical activity, When an EKG is done as you walk or jog on a treadmill, it's called an exercise stress test, If you have symptoms of heart disease or are at high risk for ing a heart attack and help you and your doctor cent said they had an exercise stress test, decide how to treat the problem,

But he tests are less accurate for lower-risk They can pose risks. people and often have misleading results. Yet EKGs and exercise stress tests won't harm you



it, both can help determine your chances of hav- an EKG during the previous five years and 12 per-

many people without symptoms of heart disease directly. But both can produce inaccurate reget the tests as part of their routine checkup. For sults that trigger follow-up tests that can pose example, in a 2010 Consumer Reports survey of risks, Those include CT angiography, which can nearly 1,200 people between the ages of 40 and 60 expose you to a radiation dose equal to 600 to with no history of heart disease or heart-disease 800 chest X-rays, and standard coronary angiogsymptoms, 39 percent said they had undergone raphy, an invasive procedure that exposes you





Treating heartburn and GERD

Use Nexium, Prilosec, and related drugs carefully

f you have heartburn, or a feeling of burning pain in your upper abdomen or lower chest, you might be tempted to try a powerful drug such as Nexium, Prevacid, or Prilosec, Those drugs, called proton pump inhibitors (PPIs), can be good choices for severe or frequent heartburn. But in most cases PPIs aren't necessary, And when they are, consider using the lowest dose necessary for as short a time as possible, Here's why,

You might not need a PPI

A PPI can help if you have heartburn more than twice a week for several weeks, or a condition called gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD), But studies suggest that up to 70 percent of people taking a PPI were never diagnosed with GERD, Instead, they might have less serious heartburn, which bone fractures. Long-term use might also deplete as H2 blockers, such as Pepcid AC and Zantac,

The drugs can pose risks,



can often be eased with dietary and other lifestyle magnesium blood levels, which, in turn, can trigchanges and, if necessary, antacids like Rolaids ger muscle spasms, irregular heartbeats, and conand Tums or another class of medication, known vulsions, Another complication of long-term use is an intestinal infection called Clostridium difficile that can lead to severe diarrhea, fever and, in rare cases, death. PPIs can also interact with other High doses of PPIs, and taking them for a year medications, For example, omeprazole (Prilosec) or longer, has been linked to an increased risk of can reduce the blood-thinning effect of the drug



ConsumerReports Health AXX I Allergy Asthma & Immunology

Treating sinusitis

Don't rush to antibiotics

illions of people are prescribed antibiotics each year for sinusitis, a frequent complication of the common cold, hay fever, and other respiratory allergies. In fact, 15 to 21 percent of all antibiotic prescriptions for adults in outpatient care are for treating sinusitis, Unfortunately, most of those people probably don't need the drugs, Here's why,

The drugs usually don't help

Sinusitis can be uncomfortable, People with the condition usually have congestion combined with yellow, green, or gray nasal discharge plus pain or pressure around the eyes, cheeks, forehead, or teeth that worsens when they bend over, But sinus infections almost always stem from a viral infection, not a bacterial one-and antibiotics don't work against viruses. Even when lems, dizziness, or rashes, Those problems clear bacteria are responsible, the infections usually up soon after stopping the drugs, but in rare clear up on their own in a week or so, And anti-cases antibiotics can cause severe allergic reacbiotics don't help ease allergies, either.

They can pose risks

About one in four people who take antibiot- antibiotic-resistant infections and undermines ics have side effects, including stomach prob- the benefits of antibiotics for others.



tions. Overuse of antibiotics also encourages the growth of bacteria that can't be controlled easily with drugs. That makes you more vulnerable to

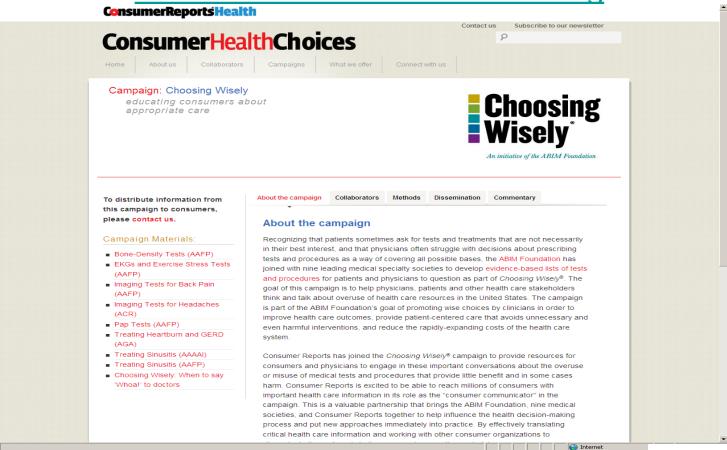




Tools and resources

Detailed resources can be found at:

www.consumerhealthchoices.org.







Consumer Initiatives

- Change the physician/consumer culture
 - "Culture beats strategy"
 - Long term
 - Must start with trusted sources
 - Physician and consumer brands together
- Identify effective strategies
 - For Employers
 - For Unions





Culture Initiatives

- Large scale information campaign focused on doctors and patients and their interaction
- Use trusted brands---Consumer Reports,
 Physician specialty societies
- Consider community consortiums willing to take on overuse
- Use all appropriate distribution channels including carriers but focus on culture change that prepares for strategies.





Wikipedian in Residence







Health Actions Not to Do: Lessons for Consumer Decision-Making

- People tend to continue acting in ways they have acted in the past.
- Focusing people's attention on different aspects of the same information can alter people's ultimate decisions.
- People tend to choose positively described options when they perceive options as safe, and people tend to choose negatively described options when they perceive options as risky.
- People process information both analytically and experientially, and as such the emotional content of messages must be considered
- Decision aids can help

COMPARISONS

Ratings

- Hospital Errors/Safety
 - 3rd leading cause of death in US=Errors/Safety (Pronovost August 2012)
 - Safety composite with novel elements
- Physician performance
 - Society of Thoracic Surgeons
 - Regional Health Improvement Collaboratives
- Health Plans
- Drugs
- Prevention Tests

2012 STS data—one heart surgery market

| Group | Composite | Survival | Complications | Meds | LIMA |
|-------|-----------|----------|---------------|------|------|
| 1 | 2 Star | 98% | 83% | 94% | 94% |
| 2 | 2 Star | 98% | 83% | 82% | 95% |
| 3 | 2 Star | 99% | 83% | 95% | 98% |
| 4 | 1 Star | 98% | 76% 1 star | 75% | 96% |
| 5 | 3 Star | 98% | 88% | 97% | 99% |
| 6 | 2 Star | 99% | 87% | 90% | 95% |
| 7 | 3 star | 99% | 90% | 94% | 95% |

ConsumerReports Health



Special Report for Massachusetts residents

How Does Your Doctor Compare?

- Exclusive:

 Patients rate 487
 adult, family &
 pediatric practices
- How to get the best care
- Quiz: Does your physician measure up?



Comparing quality and cost

The highest-quality care isn't necessarily the most expensive, as this chart shows. Under "Quality" and "Cost," higher scores (3 or 4) indicate higher quality and lower cost, respectively. A bullet under "Good value" identifies groups that scored well on both measures.



| | | | ➤ Worse |
|--|---------|------|---------------|
| Group name | Quality | Cost | Good value |
| Northwest Family Physicians | 4 | 0 | • |
| Entira Family Clinics | 0 | 3 | • |
| HealthPartners Clinics | 4 | 3 | • |
| Park Nicollet Clinics | 4 | 2 | |
| Allina Medical Clinics | 4 | 2 | |
| Aspen Medical Group | 4 | 2 | |
| Quello Clinic | 4 | 2 | |
| Stillwater Medical Group | 3 | 0 | • |
| Blaine/Fridley/ Rosedale Medical Centers | 3 | 3 | • |
| North Memorial Clinics | 3 | 3 | • |
| Lakeview Clinics | 3 | 3 | • |
| Buffalo Clinic | 3 | 3 | • |
| Apple Valley Medical Clinic | 3 | 3 | • |
| Ridgeview Clinics | 3 | 3 | • |
| Edina Family Physicians | 3 | 2 | |
| HealthEast Clinics | 3 | 2 | |
| Fairview Clinics | 3 | 2 | |
| North Clinic | 2 | 3 | |

(www.healthpartners.com/costandquality).



Heart/Vascular Prevention Test Ratings Men, 45-54, Asymptomatic

| HEART TEST | RATING | BENEFITS | RISKS | COST |
|--------------------------------|--------|-----------------|--------------|-------------|
| Blood Pressure | 0 | Substantial | Minimal | Minimal |
| Cholesterol | 0 | Substantial | Minimal | Minimal |
| Blood glucose (diabetes) | 0 | Minimal | Minimal | Minimal |
| C-reactive protein | • | Minimal | Minimal | Minimal |
| Clogged peripheral arteries | Õ | Minimal | Moderate | Substantial |
| Clogged carotid arteries | i | None | Moderate | Substantial |
| Abdominal aortic aneurysm | i | None | Moderate | Substantial |
| Electrocardiogram (EKG or ECG) | i | None | Moderate | Moderate |
| Stress test (EKG) | ě | None | Moderate | Moderate |

Cardiovascular Screening Tests in Healthy 40-60 year olds

- 44% had a low rated screening test
- Most common was EKG, followed by stress test and ultrasound
- Significant overestimation of risk
- High levels of promotion especially focused on imaging

2010 Survey of Consumer Reports Subscribers

Cardiovascular Screening Tests in Healthy 40-60 year olds

- 11% had a MD conversation about FU if test abnormal
- 9% discussed accuracy of test
- 4% knew about potential complications
- 1% discussed with MD whether test saved lives

2010 Survey of Consumer Reports Subscribers

Opportunities on the Horizon

- Imaging
 - Image Gently
- Devices
- Cost
- Transparency
 - Open Notes



What price an MRI: \$504 or \$2,520?

These are actual prices paid by large employers nationwide, as collected by the Healthcare Blue Book. The low prices represent the 10th percentile, and the high prices the 90th percentile. The "fair" price is based on Healthcare Blue Book's own evaluation.

| Test or treatment | Low | Fair | High |
|----------------------------------|--------|--------|----------|
| Brain MRI | \$ 504 | \$ 560 | \$ 2,520 |
| Chest X-ray | 40 | 44 | 255 |
| Colonoscopy | 800 | 1,110 | 3,160 |
| Complete blood count | 15 | 23 | 105 |
| Hip replacement | 19,500 | 21,148 | 43,875 |
| Hysterectomy | 8,000 | 8,546 | 16,480 |
| Knee replacement | 17,800 | 19,791 | 42,750 |
| Knee arthroscopy | 3,000 | 3,675 | 7,350 |
| Laminectomy (spine surgery) | 8,150 | 11,744 | 25,760 |
| Laparoscopic gallbladder removal | 5,000 | 6,459 | 12,480 |
| Tubal ligation | 2,865 | 3,183 | 5,729 |
| Transurethral prostate removal | 4,000 | 4,409 | 8,875 |
| Ultrasound, fetal | 120 | 169 | 480 |
| Vasectomy | 700 | 1,003 | 2,100 |





Inviting patients to read their doctors' visit notes

Results: 11797 of 13564 patients with visit notes available opened at least 1 note (84% at BIDMC, 92% at GHS, and 47% at HMC). Of 5391 patients who opened at least 1 note and completed a postintervention survey, 77% to 87% across the 3 sites reported that open notes helped them feel more in control of their care; 60% to 78% of those taking medications reported increased medication adherence; 26% to 36% had privacy concerns; 1% to 8% reported that the notes caused confusion, worry, or offense; and 20% to 42% reported sharing notes with others. Volume of

electronic messages from patients did not change. After the intervention, few doctors reported longer visits (0% to 5%) or more time addressing patients' questions outside of visits (0% to 8%), with practice size having little effect; 3% to 36% of doctors reported changing documentation content; and 0% to 21% reported taking more time writing notes. Looking ahead, 59% to 62% of patients believed that they should be able to add comments to a doctor's note. One out of 3 patients believed that they should be able to approve the notes' contents, but 85% to 96% of doctors did not agree. At the end of the experimental period, 99% of patients wanted open notes to continue and no doctor elected to stop.

"When you're through learning, you're through."

John Wooden

Former UCLA basketball coach



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