

Published July 11, 2016 – Philly.com

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## Old System, Old Rules Don't Apply to New Health Care System

We are hearing quite a bit about the transformation of health care, but what does that really mean?

If you are the **presumptive Republican presidential nominee**, Donald Trump, you would say it is the complete repeal of the Affordable Care Act. If you are the **Democratic frontrunner, Hillary Clinton**, it is modifying the existing platform. Regardless of the interpretation, we are a long way from the implementation of any significant policy shifts.

We simply shouldn't delay tackling the challenges right in front of us while the presidential campaign drags on and a new administration sets up shop.

The health care community has agreed that transformation means improving the quality of care provided to patients, making wellness and disease management—population health—a priority; and reducing the cost of providing care.

But the old system and the old rules governing health care will not work with this new health care model. Meaningful change requires a major shift in approach by all parties involved. Traditional roles and professional boundaries are blurring.

Hospitals, physicians, nurses, and other leaders in health care all are going to have to embrace new and often threatening strategies that will upset the status quo.

Instead of driving up inpatient admissions, hospitals must successfully drive them down, and shift more care to outpatient and community settings.

Physicians must adapt to new health care teams that fully recognize the training and authority of other clinical professionals. Nurses must embrace flexibility in staffing that is essential to ensure timely responses to patient needs. Insurers need to jump on the transparency bandwagon and provide the timely data that can inform critical care decisions.

The Hospital & Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania (HAP) has been part of a State Innovation Models (SIM) initiative, led by the Department of Health, designed to promote positive health care changes. This initiative is being called the Health Innovation in Pennsylvania (HIP) Plan.

HAP and hospital leaders have been working side-by-side with provider and consumer groups, state agencies, and insurers to address:

- Provider Payment
- Price and Quality Transparency
- Population Health
- Health Care Transformation
- Health Information Technology

We applaud Secretary of Health Dr. Karen Murphy's leadership to bring stakeholders together with policymakers to identify the path to meaningful health care transformation.

The most complex part of the process is the move from a national system that has historically paid for volume, or the number of patients getting care, to a system that pays for value. Value is determined by quality patient outcomes, appropriate use of medical best practices, and lower health care costs.

To be successful, we need policies and processes that are coordinated, flexible, and streamlined. We must emphasize the importance of timely data and transparency. We need to modernize the laws and regulations attached to the old delivery system, so we can thrive in the new system.

HAP's policy recommendations to transform care focus on five key issues:

- Align quality of care measures among state, federal, and commercial payers
- Ensure provider access to timely data/information so they can assume risk and manage population health
- Develop alternative value-based programs for rural health providers
- Support expansion of telehealth services
- Determine and implement opportunities to integrate physical and behavioral health

To be clear, the old system and the old rules governing health care will not work with this new health care model. Holding on to old ways is not an option. Business models, relationships, and agreements developed before the Accountable Care Act (prior to 2010) must be reworked to be responsive in the new world.

Regardless of whether our new president looks to eliminate the current system or modify it, his or her plans will not come to fruition quickly. In the meantime, consumers, nor the economy, can wait. We must own the transformation.

HAP is committed to taking the critical next steps in the transformation process now. We look forward to working with all stakeholders and state leaders to make the leap to a value-based payment environment, one that improves the quality of care provided to patients, makes wellness and disease management a priority; and reduces the cost of providing care.