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The New World of Health Care

We've heard it hundreds of times: "The world of health care is changing dramatically – and rapidly."

We're already seeing that health care reform will have a tremendous effect on how we practice medicine. Reform came about because health care in the United States simply can't continue in the fragmented, high-cost state in which it exists today. The cost of care in the U.S. is almost twice that of care in other developed nations, and the quality varies significantly.

To cut costs and force quality improvements, Medicare, in 2012, began reducing reimbursements to hospitals with high patient readmissions for pneumonia, myocardial infarction and heart failure. The annual cost to Medicare for readmissions is \$15 billion; 25 percent of patients are readmitted within 30 days. With the Medicare population growing, something had to change. Thus, the Affordable Care Act became law. Under health care reform, Medicare payments will be based on patient outcomes and quality. However, it's not just the federal government demanding higher quality at lower costs. Insurance companies and employers are now demanding the same.

With the increased focus on quality and cost, payment methods are moving from fee for service to payment for value, which will drive higher quality and lower costs. We'll see more "bundled payments," which call for providers to be paid a flat rate for an "episode of care," and other payment methods that move us away from payment for volume to payment for value and patient outcomes. Caregivers will take on the risk of providing care at a specific cost, no matter what complications arise. In 2015, under health care reform, Medicare will pay physicians based on patient outcomes.

Quality measurements are growing in importance – and not just because of payments, but also because patients have increased access to quality information regarding health care. They can go online, for example, to HealthCare Bluebook (<http://www.healthcarebluebook.com/>) and look up how much a procedure should cost in their zip code. They can use *Consumer Reports* to comparison shop for care the same way they shop for a car.

Care coordination, standards of care and seamless patient transitions are among the improvements that need to happen in order to improve quality, reduce costs and meet the new expectations of the organizations that pay us to provide care. The health care industry recognizes this, and organizations across the nation are implementing new information technology systems to better coordinate care and measure quality. **Integrated Care Partners** is changing the way we provide care in our marketplace. Together, as a group of dedicated physicians, we are building a successful future as we improve our practices and give patients the care and experience they deserve.

Please feel free to contact us at Integratedcarepartners@hhhealth.org and find information on our Web site at www.integratedcarepartners.org.

Sincerely,

Dr. James Cardon

Executive Vice President & Clinical Integration Officer, **Integrated Care Partners**



Visit our *Integrated Care Partners* Web site at www.integratedcarepartners.org



Dr. Kent Stahl Board Member, Integrated Care Partners



In addition to serving as an Integrated Care Partners board member, Dr. Kent Stahl is CEO of Hartford HealthCare Medical Group, a multi-specialty group with more than 250 providers practicing 30 specialties in more than 60 locations. The medical group is one of the largest multi-specialty practices in Connecticut and Southern New England, providing primary care, urgent care, medical specialty and surgical services at Hartford HealthCare (HHC) member hospitals – Hartford Hospital, the Hospital of Central Connecticut, MidState Medical Center and Windham Hospital. As the changes in health care transform the practice of medicine, Hartford HealthCare Medical Group will be a leader in providing reliable, excellent, coordinated care to the community.

Dr. Stahl also is a vice president of Hartford HealthCare (HHC), the premiere health care network in Connecticut with more than 16,000 staff members and \$2 billion in net revenue. In addition to four hospitals and the medical group, the HHC system includes The Institute of Living psychiatric center; VNA HealthCare; Clinical Laboratory Partners with more than 80 locations statewide; Central Connecticut Senior Health Services with eight assisted-living and skilled-nursing facilities; Hartford HealthCare Rehabilitation Network; and two regional behavioral health centers, Rushford and Natchaug Hospital.

From 1997 until December 2012, Dr. Stahl served as medical director and CEO of Hartford Medical Group (HMG), now part of Hartford HealthCare Medical Group. He led the transformation of the practice from urgent to primary care and built the staff from 12 physicians to 70. HMG had its origins as Immediate Medical Care Inc., which was founded in 1983 by three physicians, including Dr. Stahl. Dr. Stahl also is an assistant clinical professor at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine and is certified as a Diplomate with the National Board of Medical Examiners and the American Board of Internal Medicine.

Dr. Stahl is a member of numerous professional organizations, including the American College of Physicians, the American College of Physician Executives, the Connecticut State Medical Society and the Group Practice Improvement Network. In addition, he is a member of the board of directors of the Hartford Physician Hospital Organization.

Dr. Stahl earned a Bachelor of Science in life sciences from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, obtained his M.D. at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry, and completed his post-graduate training in internal medicine at Hartford Hospital.

Integrated Care Partners Vision

- Nationally respected for excellence in patient care and most trusted for personalized coordinated care.
- To become:
 - The most effective population health manager in the market, delivering high-quality, cost-effective care in value-based contracts.
 - The health system of choice for patients, other employers and payers, providing the most coordinated and effective patient care.

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Connected Care will be distributed to physician leaders and throughout Hartford HealthCare on a regular basis as we work to integrate our clinical practice in support of our communities.
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Contact us at Integratedcarepartners@hhchealth.org