Prescriptions for Better Health Care: What Greater Cleveland Can Learn from Other Regions

David M. Cutler Professor of Economics Harvard University

April 2005

Two Issues In Health Care

- 1. Should areas try to be health care magnets?
 - Biotech and big pharma?
 - NIH money?
 - 'Let's get everyone else to spend more.'
- 2. What would a good medical system be like?
 - 'Let's spend less.'

Organizing a Health System

- □ What does it mean to be a high quality health care market?
- □ How can an area achieve that?

Preview of Findings

- □ The health system is good ... but good isn't good enough.
 - We need the 21st century health care system.
- □ *Local* action is the priority.

Dimensions of Comparison

- □ System Organization
- \Box Costs
- □ Access
- □ Quality
- □ We don't have perfect measures for all of these, but we can do pretty well.

Summary Information for Target Markets, 1995-1996

Market	Total Population (1995)	Medicare Enrollees (1995)	Beds per 1,000 Residents (1995)	100,000 Residents (1996)	Physicians per 100,000 Residents (1996)
ATL	4,200,842	352,220	2.9	173.0	115.5
BOS	4,456,609	536,340	2.6	260.4	174.7
CLE	2,115,071	274,040	3.4	210.2	138.1
DAL	4,894,326	407,080	2.8	163.4	108.9
HOU	4,654,165	325,460	3.4	171.3	117.1
MSP	3,659,195	349,700	2.5	174.3	102.0
PIT	3,057,775	509,880	3.6	191.9	126.4
SD	3,006,551	156,340	1.9	194.1	132.1
SF	3,433,446	252,480	2.1	248.8	160.6
STL	3,202,811	404,240	3.6	182.3	117.9







<section-header><section-header><section-header><footnote><footnote>













Quality Conclusions

□ The top institutions in the country do ok with respect to basic process and outcome measures.

- Other institutions do less well.
- □ Overall, the system is good.
- But good isn't good enough, especially given what we're spending.

What Would It Take to be the 21st Century Health Care System?

Big Changes Are Needed

Changing payments for a small share of patients in an area is guaranteed to have poor results.

Goals

- 1. Cost reduction of <u>10 percent</u> relative to the nation over the next decade.
- 2. Hospitals universally adopt leading process of care measures, as defined by Leapfrog Group
 - Computerized Physician Order Entry systems (CPOE)
 - Staffing in ICUs
 - High volume for conditions where there is substantial learning-by-doing

20

18



Quality Can Improve: Diabetes Management at HealthPartners

Primary Components of Diabetes DM Programs:

* Dissemination of guidelines * Provider education

- * Performance feedback to physicians
- * Patient reminders
- * Member education * Screening programs
- * Case management
- * At-risk lists

22





Goals (continued)

- 4. Commitment to widescale measurement and data dissemination
 - Hospitals, physician groups, and insurers

Key Ingredients To Make It Happen

- □ A significant degree of provider integration
- □ Agreement among important actors
 - Insurers
 - Big and small hospitals
 - Physicians
 - Large Employers
 - Government
- □ An (independent) idea factory/implementer

26

The Medical-Industrial Complex

- Economists are generally wary about picking winners
 - Japan v. Latin America in the 1950s
 - Cold fusion
- □ But health care has all the features of the next computer era

27

- People want the stuff
- It has a lot of spillovers

If I were giving advice to the mayor...

- □ Lure health research as much as possible
- □ Play up Universities
- □ Businesses like:
 - A generally educated workforce
 - Areas with a lot of amenities