

Highlight: Feb. 16 National Purchaser Conference

A diverse group of health care purchasers, plans, providers and regulators gathered in San Francisco on February 16 for an IHP co-sponsored national conference, “**The Health Care Purchaser’s Toolbox: Moving Beyond Cost-Sharing to Address Health Care Quality and Costs.**”

The event featured a roster of prominent speakers addressing strategies and solutions to the cost and quality issues besetting major purchasers of health care. **Presentations covered such strategies as:**

- Pay for Performance;
- Consumer Directed Health Plans;
- Physician organization and network redesign; and
- Incentives for care coordination, care management, and IT deployment.

Speakers:

Peter Lee (PBGH), **Francis J. Crosson** (Kaiser Permanente), **Stephen Shortell** (UC Berkeley), **James C. Robinson** (UC Berkeley), **George Halvorson** (Kaiser Permanente), **Reed Tuckson** (UnitedHealth Group), **Robert Margolis** (HealthCare Partners), **Jeff Flick** (CMS), **Tom Williams** (Integrated Healthcare Association), **Betsy Gilbertson** (HEREIU Welfare Fund), **Terry Westbrook** (CalPERS), and **Henry Loubet** (Keenan and Associates).

The event was cosponsored by the KP Institute for Health Policy, the Pacific Business Group on Health, the UC Berkeley Center for Health Research, and the HR Policy Association. Presentations are available at http://www.kpihp.org/areas/deliverysystem/Agenda_Purchaser.htm

Issue Focus: Health Care Delivery Systems and Competition

The Institute for Health Policy is working on a number of fronts to put the delivery system “back on the table” as a key to addressing the cost and quality crisis in American health care. A key piece of this work is understanding how models of health care market competition impact the delivery system.

Activities Planned in 2005:

Invitational Roundtable: “Health Care Market Competition: How Well Can It Work?” April 29, 2005, Washington, DC. Cosponsored by Health Affairs and the Center for Studying Health System Change.

Panel Session: “The Impact of Market Competition on Delivery System Quality and Efficiency,” AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting, IHP-chaired session, June 27, 2005, Boston. See Conference brochure at: <http://www.academyhealth.org/arm/brochure.pdf>.

Recent Activities:

Roundtable: “A Policy Agenda for Developing Systems of Care,” Jan. 23, 2004, San Francisco. Cosponsored by the Council of Accountable Physician Practices.

Book Publication: *Toward a 21st Century Health System*, Edited by Alain Enthoven and Laura Tollen (IHP senior consultant), March, 2004. Excerpts and ordering info. available at <http://www.kpihp.org/areas/deliverysystem/excerpt.htm>

National Conference: “Delivery Systems Matter!,” March 17, 2004, Washington, DC. Cosponsored by KP Institute for Health Policy, American Medical Group Assoc., Alliance of Community Health Plans, Council of Accountable Physician Practices, Health Affairs, Institute for Healthcare Improvement, and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Summary available at <http://www.kpihp.org/areas/deliverysystem/Summary.pdf>

Panel Session: “Is There a Future for Integrated Care Systems in the Consumer Era?”, AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting, IHP-sponsored session, June 6-8, 2004, San Diego.

Issue Focus: Health Information Technology

IHP is exploring the public policy barriers and enablers related to broad adoption of clinical IT, and adding to the body of knowledge about the benefits that can be achieved from clinical IT by leveraging Kaiser Permanente's experience.

Areas of focus in 2005:

Financial incentives to promote adoption of clinical IT;
Clinical IT standards and interoperability;
Clinical IT and health care workforce dynamics; and
Barriers to the development and use of clinical IT.

Recent publications:

"A Focus on KP HealthConnect," special Fall 2004 theme issue and supplement of *The Permanente Journal* devoted to the lessons of KP HealthConnect implementation, with editing by IHP staff and writing of "Entering the Decade of Health Information Technology." PDF of entire issue available at: <http://xnet.kp.org/permanentejournal/permjournal.html>.

"Making the Business Case for Hospital Information Systems: A Kaiser Permanente Investment Decision," *Journal of Healthcare Finance*, Winter 2005.

"The Kaiser Permanente IT Transformation," *Healthcare Financial Management Magazine*, Winter 2005. PDF available at http://www.kpihp.org/publications/abstracts/kpit_transformation.htm

Issue Focus: Healthy Eating, Active Living

IHP works to identify and review evidence on the effectiveness of public health and public policy approaches to promote healthy eating and active living. IHP has served as the coordinator of Kaiser Permanente's sponsorship of various state and national forums to promote treatment and prevention strategies for overweight and obesity.

Recent conferences:

"Confronting Obesity: Science, Health, and Society," April 2004. Cosponsored with UC Berkeley.

"Preventing and Treating Overweight and Obesity: How Effective Are the Interventions?" Oct. 2004. Cosponsored with ECRI.

"California Childhood Obesity Conference," Jan. 2005. Cosponsored with the California Dept. of Health Services and UC Berkeley.

Issue Focus: Benefit Design and Consumerism

IHP has contributed original research and writing on the implications of health care "consumerism" – or the movement toward insurance products with increased employee cost-sharing features.

Recent publication:

"Risk Segmentation Related to the Offering of a Consumer-Directed Health Plan," *Health Services Research*, Vol. 39, Number 4, Aug. 2004. Available at http://www.kpihp.org/publications/abstracts/benefits_hsr.htm

Issue Focus: Quality Measurement and Reporting

IHP worked in tandem with KP's Care Management Institute to promote progress toward the definition and adoption of widely agreed upon, consistent and useable measures of clinical quality and reporting that will advance the Institute of Medicine's six aims for safe, effective, patient-centered, timely, equitable, and efficient health care.

Recent activities:

Roundtable: "Facilitating Use of Clinical Quality Measures Through Aggregation," Washington, DC, April 21-22, 2004. Cosponsored by KP Institute for Health Policy, KP Care Management Institute, National Quality Forum, National Committee for Quality Assurance, and U.S. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. Summary available at http://www.kpihp.org/publications/abstracts/quality_summary.htm

Background Paper: "Could a Quality Index Help Us Navigate the Chasm?" http://www.kpihp.org/publications/abstracts/quality_background.htm

More Information

For more information about any upcoming or recent IHP events or publications, please refer to the IHP website at <http://www.kpihp.org>, or call Amalia Martino at 510-271-6399.