

Opportunities and Challenges Managing Healthcare System (Part 1)



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Healthcare leaders, policy makers and managers, are confronted with uncertainty and continuous challenges, including:

- Making certain that patient is receiving appropriate and safe care.
- Financial challenges and opportunities.
- Regulatory and accreditation, and non-funded government mandate.
- Managing human resources, training and retaining the competent one.
- Managing resources during economic difficulties.
- Dealing with concepts and parameters of healthcare fraud and abuse.
- Dealing with pharmaceutical advancements and cost fluctuations.
- Determining which healthcare technology is the most appropriate.
- Creating, adhering to, and challenging governments mandates and legislations.

Performance and patient outcomes will forever be the central focus of the healthcare industry, third party payers/administrators link it to reimbursement, thus, recruiting and retaining qualified staff with the ability to assure consistent positive patient outcomes will be the top priority for the majority of health care administrators.

Payers, physicians, and providers are consistently

struggling to manage a relationship tied to patient care, finance, and many other unwanted elements and moving targets, leaving everyone confused, and bringing the question of appropriate sustainability to the top of the list.

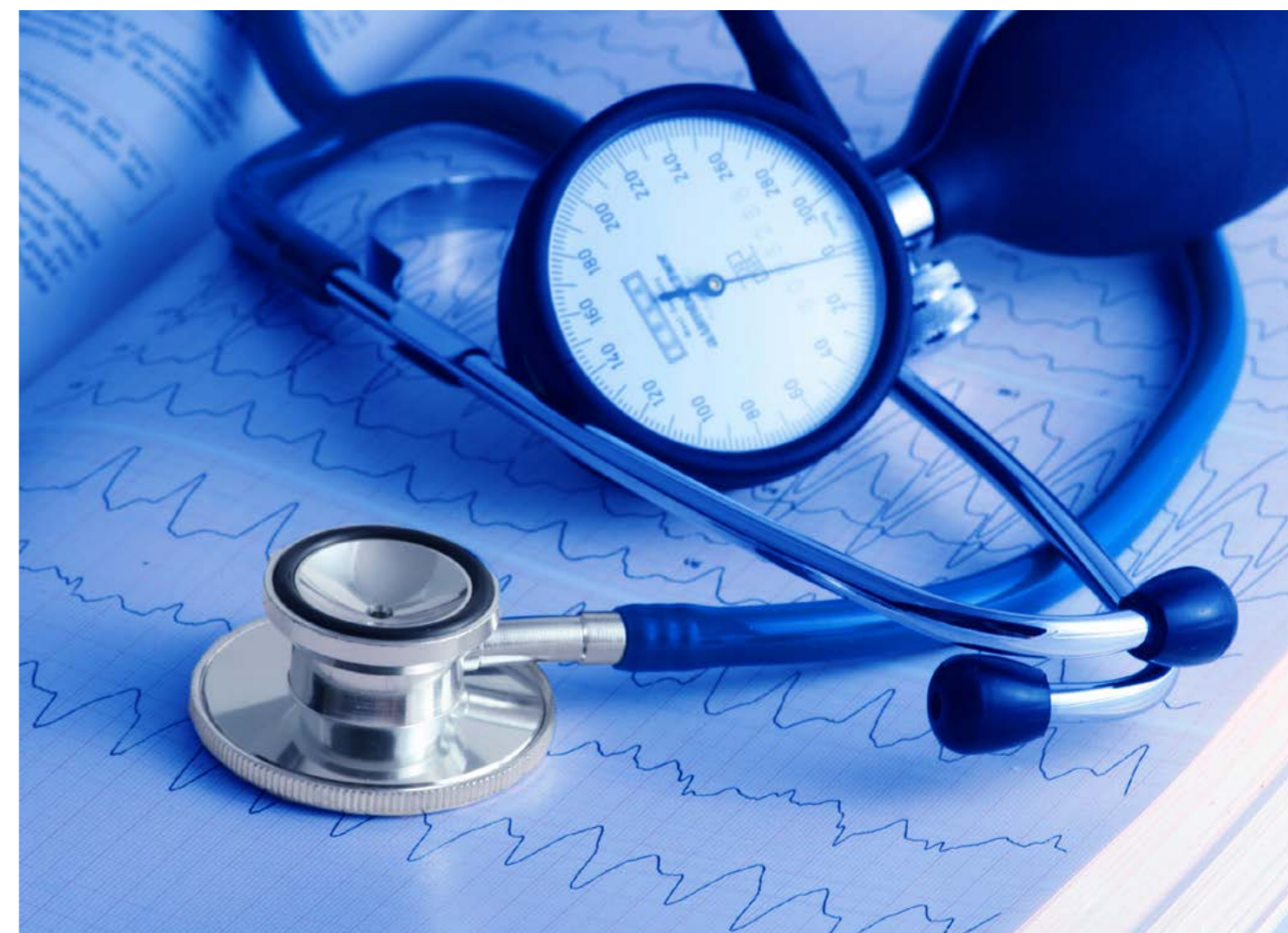
Varying degrees of uncertainty is clouding the healthcare systems operation with regards to accreditation sustainability and impact, some are proactively proceeding forward, others are waiting, and the majority of healthcare administrators are attempting to maintain “Status Quo”, while struggling with current resources to meeting the many significant demands, all high priorities demands, and all at the same time.

Healthcare administrators are increasingly struggling with shifting talents in clinical and non-clinical departments; the concept of cross training is fully exhausted, funds and reimbursement are scarce, and major functions such as technology enhancement and IT go unexplored, and the first service to suffer from this inconsistency is the quality improvement, rendering patient outcomes in questionable category.

The never-ending changes in regulatory requirements, pharmaceutical and technology cost will add weighty challenge, forcing health systems administrators to opt for significant investment, modest intervention, or no action at all.... Each with its own outcomes and consequences.

These, and many other issues modestly characterize the daily life of most, if not all leaders and managers of the healthcare industry; what is surprising and consistent is that, most of those who govern, lead, and manage health systems are unified over the top issues/challenges they must interact with; regardless of geographic location, economic situation, and the type of health systems.

In order to comprehensively formulate the appropriate



argument and analysis regarding the “discussed challenges”, healthcare systems leaders and managers will be responding to set of indicators and prioritize them by level of importance and corresponding significance. Indicators will mirror indicators in surveys conducted in different countries and will be published in the next issue, this will afford us the opportunity to perform a comparative analysis regarding differences and similarities, and allow for the distribution of categorized priorities for healthcare policy makers and providers.

Respondents will be asked to prioritize what is affecting their systems such as financial challenges, patient safety and satisfaction, personnel shortage and satisfaction, access to care, automation and technology, physician-

hospital relations, accreditation, and government mandates, within some of these categories, respondents will identify specific concerns facing their system/hospitals and afford us the opportunity to go beyond the verbal discussion, and document the appropriate concerns.

Validating the verbal discussion and including the healthcare industry stakeholder’s opinions may create the appropriate environment for all to establish priorities relevant to providers, payers, policy makers, and for certain, the Patient.