

Provider Reports

Potential Recommendation for the Colorado Commission on Affordable Health Care

May 9, 2016

Potential Recommendation

Use data from the All-Payer Claims Database (APCD) to give provider groups specific and regular reports on cost and quality. These data reports will summarize how providers compare with their peers on price and quality.

Original Commission Recommendation

“Provide data to providers and clinicians at point of service.”

“Transparency is beneficial to more than just consumers. It is important to payers as well to understand similar provider groups and how they render services, and have a consistent metric for pricing.”

Evidence Basis

Evidence suggests that public reporting of quality data alters provider behavior. This is sometimes referred to as the “reputation pathway” of transparency. There are two theories about why the reputation pathway is effective. The first is that seeing themselves associated with high costs or low value “inherently motivates” providers to change their behavior because it is the right thing to do.

The other is that providers will alter behavior because they will worry about their reputation among their peers.¹

Research on the reputation pathway of transparency has focused specifically on quality data rather than cost. One example of public quality reporting is the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Hospital Compare initiative, a website that shows how well hospitals provide recommended care to their patients.

Studies of Hospital Compare suggest that publicly reporting providers’ quality data is associated with improvements of process measures such as administering appropriate medications at admission and discharge.² While not conclusive, these studies support the consensus that public reporting initiatives hold promise.

Notes

- 1 <http://content.healthaffairs.org/content/31/4/843.full.pdf+html>
- 2 <http://content.healthaffairs.org/content/31/4/843.full.pdf+html>

