ISSUE 6 FALL 2009

Prescriptions for Excellence in
HEALTH CARE

A COLLABORATION BETWEEN JEFFERSON SCHOOL OF POPULATION HEALTH AND LILLY USA, LLC

Editorial

Partnering to Achieve National Health Goals

By David B. Nash, MD, MBA
Editor-in-Chief

This issue of *Prescriptions for Excellence in Health Care* marks the beginning of a third volume of newsletters focused on health-related issues of importance to our country. As in previous years, this volume is based on the proceedings of an invitation-only roundtable discussion among national experts who are passionate about the issues.

Convened by the National Quality Forum, the National Priorities Partnership (NPP) represents a diverse group of high-profile stakeholders who are committed to affecting measurable, positive change in US health care in a relatively short time frame. Its signature initiative - a core list of National Priorities and Goals - is expected to yield positive outcomes in terms of improved care, equity, safety, and efficiency over the coming 3 to 5 years. The articles in this issue of the newsletter, and the 3 newsletters that follow, will focus on a broad range of initiatives that target 1 or more of these NPP priorities and goals.

The first article, "National Priorities Partnership: Setting a National Agenda for Health Care Quality and Safety," provides background on the origin of the NPP and an overview of the National Priorities and Goals. A unique program for achieving excellence in hospital nursing is discussed in the second article, "Magnet Recognition Program: Building Capacity for Innovations in Nursing." The author also features specific initiatives undertaken by nurses in her health system hospitals.

The third article, "Reducing Waste and Overuse: A National Priorities Partnership Recommendation," explores this important recommendation and related goals in greater depth. A new approach to one of America's leading population health issues – obesity – is discussed in the final article, "The University of Baltimore Obesity Report Card: Deconstructing the Obesity Infrastructure."

As I watch Congress buckling under the enormous challenges of health care reform, the NPP's efforts give me some optimism for the future of health care in the United States. I hope that, like me, you will be energized by the enthusiasm with which stakeholders from across the country are responding to the National Priorities and Goals.

As always, I am interested in your feedback; you can reach me by email at: david.nash@jefferson.edu or visit my blog at: http://nashhealthpolicy.blogspot.com

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