

The Quality of Medical Care in the United States

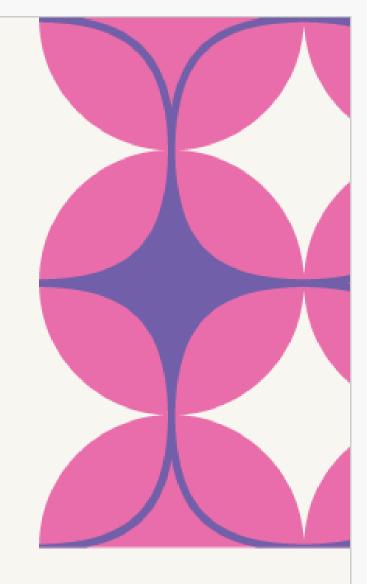
PUBPOL 2350

November 7, 2022



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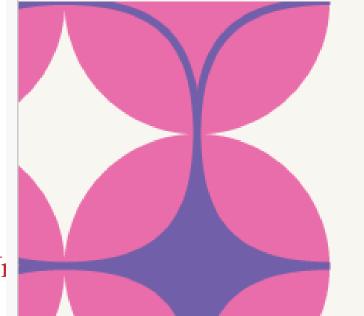
SOCIAL IMPACT: BRIDGING THE GAP IN COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS







COORDINATOR OF CCE



Grace's work focuses on student community partnerships between Cornell and Tompkins County to address SDOH. Join us as we discuss her views on healthcare and how they have evolved through her professional journey. Pizza will be provided!



COFFEE & CONVERSATIONS: PUBLIC HEALTH AT CORNELL

NOV 8 2023

5:00PM - 6:00PM Warren Hall B51

Join Cornell Public
Health faculty and
students for coffee
and snacks, and dive
into the dynamic
world of public health!

Register and you'll automatically enter a raffle to win exclusive Cornell Public Health merch!

DON'T MISS OUT ON THIS EXCITING OPPORTUNITY TO CONNECT, LEARN, AND WIN!





BLOOD DRIVES FUIS MULENISEIS

Scan here to sign up to donate!



Cornell

Red Cross Club

@cornellredcross

Biotech G10 1-6 PM

THURSDAY

29

MONDAY

30

RPCC 218 1-6 PM

THURSDAY

10





THE COLLEGE OF HUMAN ECOLOGY'S DEAN UNDERGRADUATE ADVISORY COUNCIL PRESENTS...

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH CAREER FAIR



TALK TO LAB REPRESENTATIVES +
LEARN ABOUT AVAILABLE RESEARCH
POSITIONS WITHIN HUMAN ECOLOGY.

PERFECT TO DEVELOP A FOUNDATION FOR YOUR RESEARCH CAREER.

WHEN:
NOVEMBER 7, 2023
TUESDAY

WHERE: MVR COMMONS





PLEASE RVSP USING THE QR CODE
PROVIDED. LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE



BIG RED THON DANCE MARATHON

Big Red Thon is Cornell's largest student-run non-profit organization!

We raise funds for Children's Miracle
Network Hospitals, specifically Upstate
Golisano (right here in New York!) to help
provide kids with lifesaving treatments and
the best quality care.

Every year, we host an annual DANCE
MARATHON at Barton Hall as our main
fundraising event, with games, prizes, food,
and more! Your participations and
contributions go directly to Upstate
Golisano, so sign up now to show your
support and save your spot at the event!





REGISTER FOR THE EVENT!

WHEN: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER

11TH, 2-7PM

WHERE: BARTON HALL (CENTRAL

CORNELL CAMPUS)



EMAIL US AT BIGREDTHON@GMAIL.COM

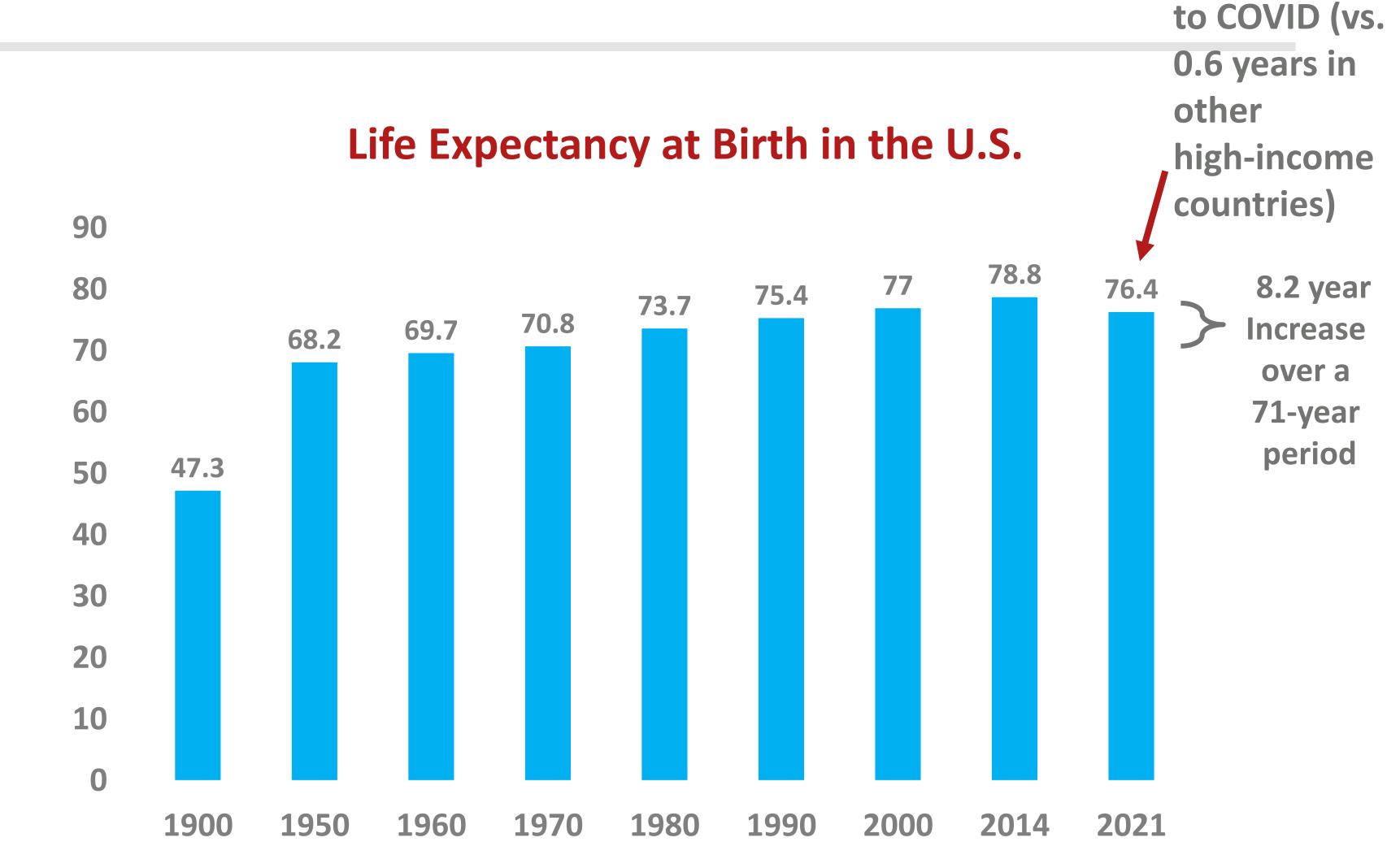


Today's Topics

- 1. Current State: Review the good and bad news regarding the quality of medical care in the United States
- 2. Analysis: Investigate 4 reasons why quality is worse than it should be given how much we spend on medical care in the U.S.
- **3. Policies:** Discuss policies that could improve the quality of medical care



First, the Good News: Our Health System Has Contributed to Longevity





Source: National Center for Health Statistics, Health, United States, 2016; NCHS Data Brief, December 2022. Fell by 2.4

years due

Video

But, service quality is often

lacking in the

U.S. health care system



The Bad News: a 2000 Institute of Medicine (IOM) Report Highlighted Questionable Medical Quality

- Utah, Colorado, and NY studies:
 - Adverse events (see next slide for examples) occurred in 3% to 4% of hospital admissions
 - Adverse events resulted in death 7% 14% of the time
 - Over 50% of events due to a preventable medical error
 - Translates into 44,000 98,000 preventable deaths per year in U.S.
 due to medical errors occurring in a hospital
 An "outcome" measure
- Hospital deaths (an "outcome" quality measure) due to preventable medical errors are the 8th leading cause of death in the U.S
- Equivalent to a 747 airplane crashing every day



Examples of Adverse Hospital Events

- Decubitus ulcer (bed sores)
- Allergic reaction to a prescription drug
- Post-operative hemorrhage and hematoma
- Post-operative pulmonary embolism and deep vein thrombosis
- Post-operative sepsis (infection of the blood)
- latrogenic pneumothorax



Dennis Quaid video





Bad News: 2nd Important Study (RAND study)

- Between 1998 and 2000, 6,700 patients' medical records were compared against 439 indicators of quality care for 30 health conditions (i.e., evidence-based medicine, or recommended care for a disease)
- Conclusion: only 55% of patients were receiving the recommended care

Examples:

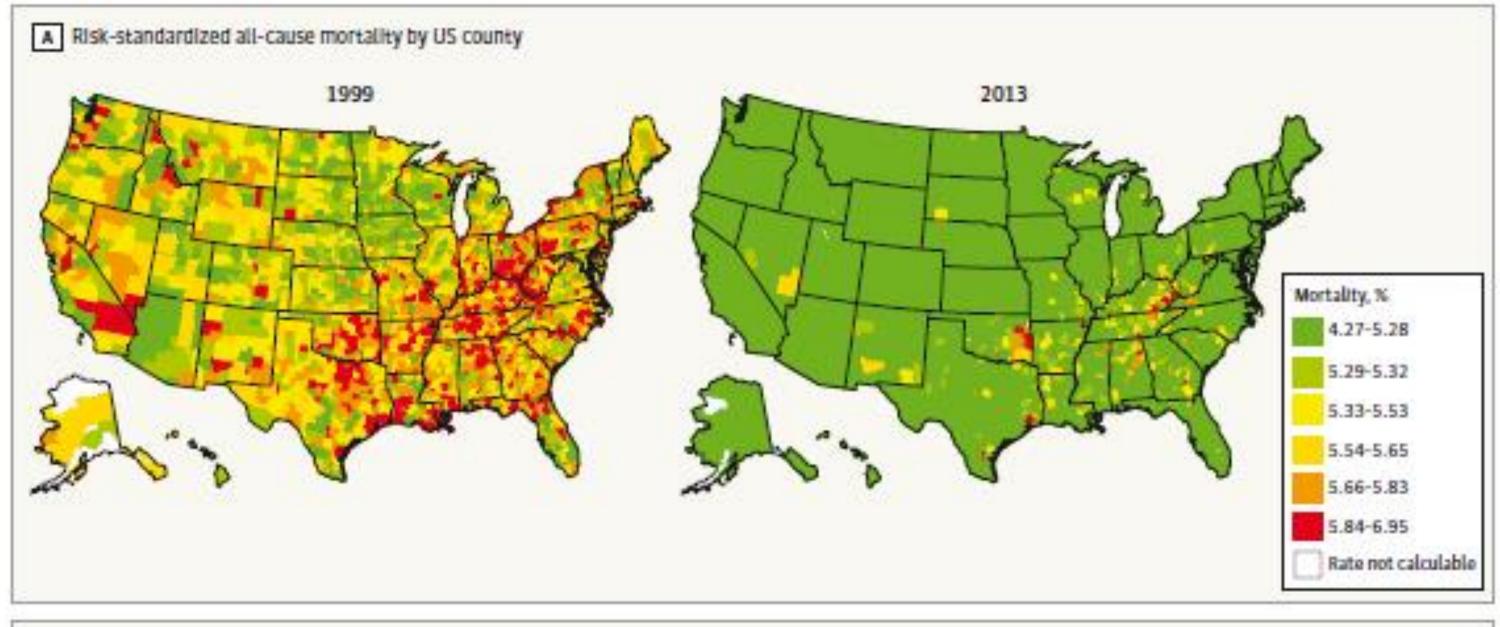
- only 24% of diabetics received 3 hemoglobin tests over a 2-year period
- only 38% of appropriate patients had been screened for colorectal cancer every 5 years
- Authors repeated the study in 2007 for children: only 47% of 2-year olds received recommended medical care

"Process" measures

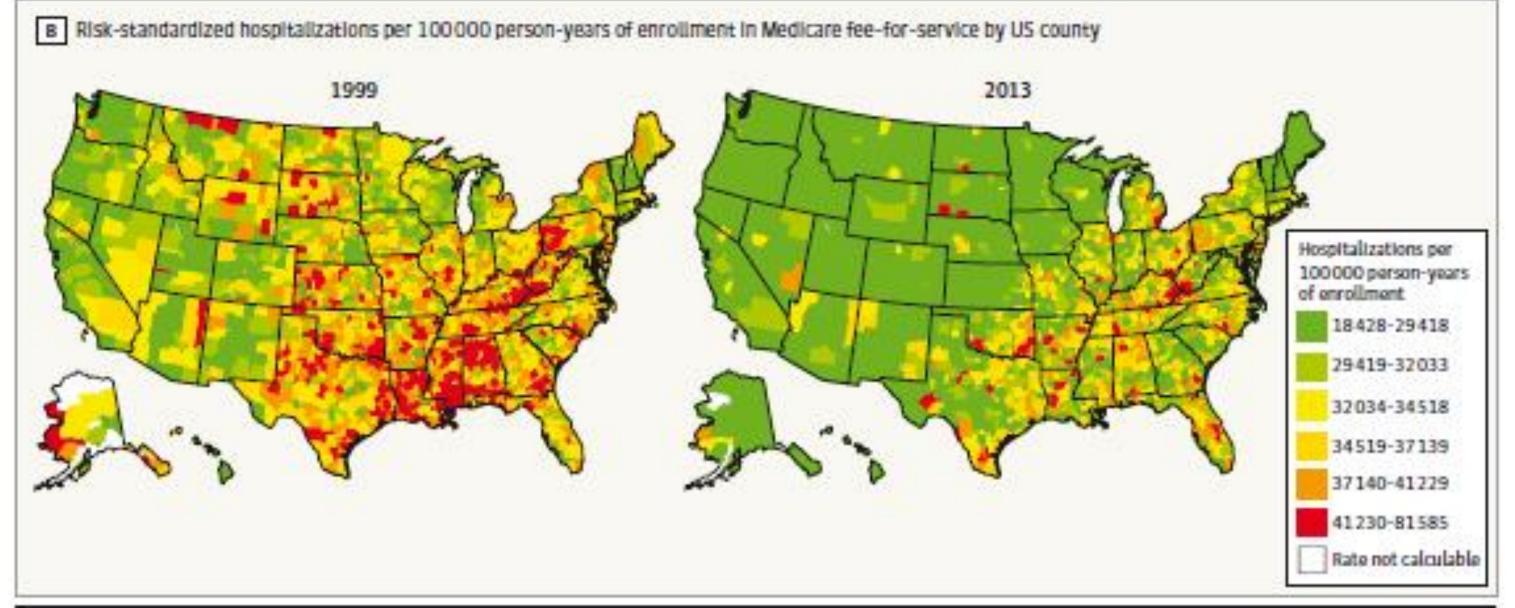


The U.S. Health Care System Has Made Progress Since Those Studies

Figure 2. Maps Showing Trends in Risk-Standardized All-Cause Mortality and Hospitalizations Among Fee-for-Service Beneficiaries for Individual US Counties, 1999-2013



Hospitalization rates and mortality rates fell for Medicare beneficiaries, 1999 - 2013



Source: Krumholz et al., *JAMA*, July 28, 2015.

Discussion

Is a physician's risk-adjusted mortality rate or readmission rate a valid measure of quality?
Will reporting them publicly improve quality?

Why or why not?



Proposed Definition of Quality: Mortality Rate of a MD's Patients

			Sur	geon Dat	a							
		Surgeon Data 2008-2009 (Two Years Combined)										
	Nur	Number of Cases			Mortality		Readmissions					
	2008	2009	Total	In-Hospital	30-Day	7-Day	30-Day	 Post-Surgical Length of Stay 				
McCurry, Kenneth R.												
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Total Valve	46	38	84	, ⊙	\odot	•		10.4				

Not rated; too few cases

Better
than
expected



Structure-Process-Outcomes Framework For Measuring Medical Quality

Structure:

Characteristics of providers; tools/resources available

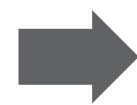


Examples:

- board certification
- Have and use information technology/EMR system

Process:

Actions/services performed by providers. Follow evidence-based medicine?



Outcome:

Change in a patient's health due to medical care

Example:

 testing a diabetic's blood sugar

Example:

actual vs.
 expected
 mortality rate for
 a hospital/MD



Source: Donabedian, 1980.

Challenges With Quality Definition and Measurement

- Ultimately, we care most about health <u>outcomes</u> (e.g., can we walk without pain? Did we survive a stroke?)
- However, sometimes physicians and hospitals provide all the "correct" medical care (i.e., evidence-based medicine) but the patient still does not have a good health outcome, due to chance or factors beyond a provider's control.
- Therefore, measuring <u>processes</u> has appeal did physicians and hospitals provide the recommended/correct care that was under their control?
- Although there is no guarantee that following the correct processes will necessarily produce a good outcome, it should on average.
- Finally, there are some <u>structures</u> (e.g., using electronic medical records) that make it easier for physicians/hospitals to provide recommended care (i.e., computerized decision support).

Conclusion: all 3 definitions have some merit



WHY is the quality of medical

care in the United States, by

traditional measures, worse

than it should be?



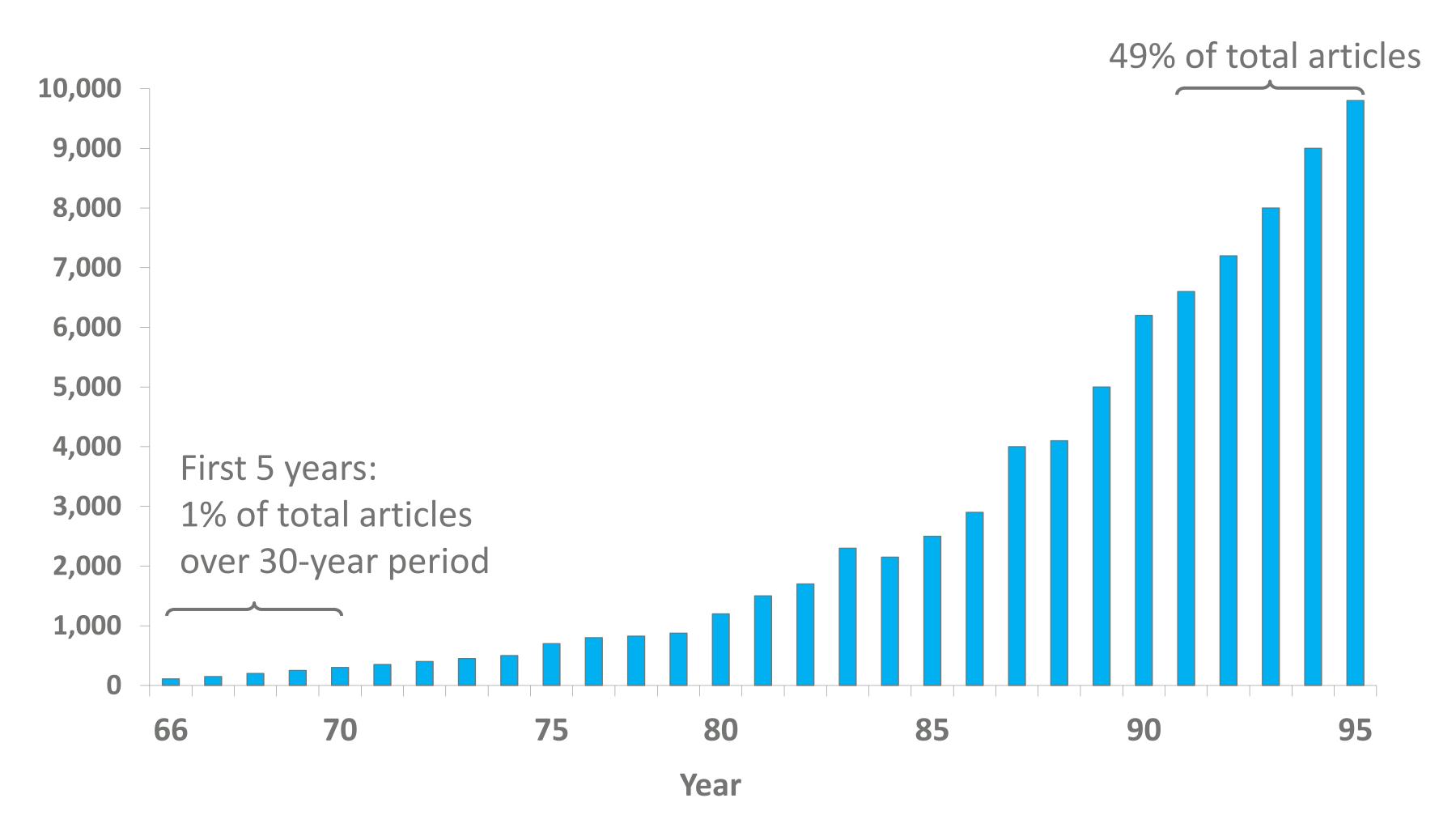
Institute of Medicine's Four Underlying Reasons for Inadequate Quality of Medical Care

- 1. Growing complexity of medicine
- 2. Increase in chronic conditions among patients
- 3. Little financial incentive for physicians/hospitals to invest time and money to improve quality
- 4. Failure to exploit the revolution in information technology



The Medical Evidence Base is Expanding Rapidly

of Articles Published Based on Randomized Controlled Trials





Medical data is expected to double every 73 days by 2020.

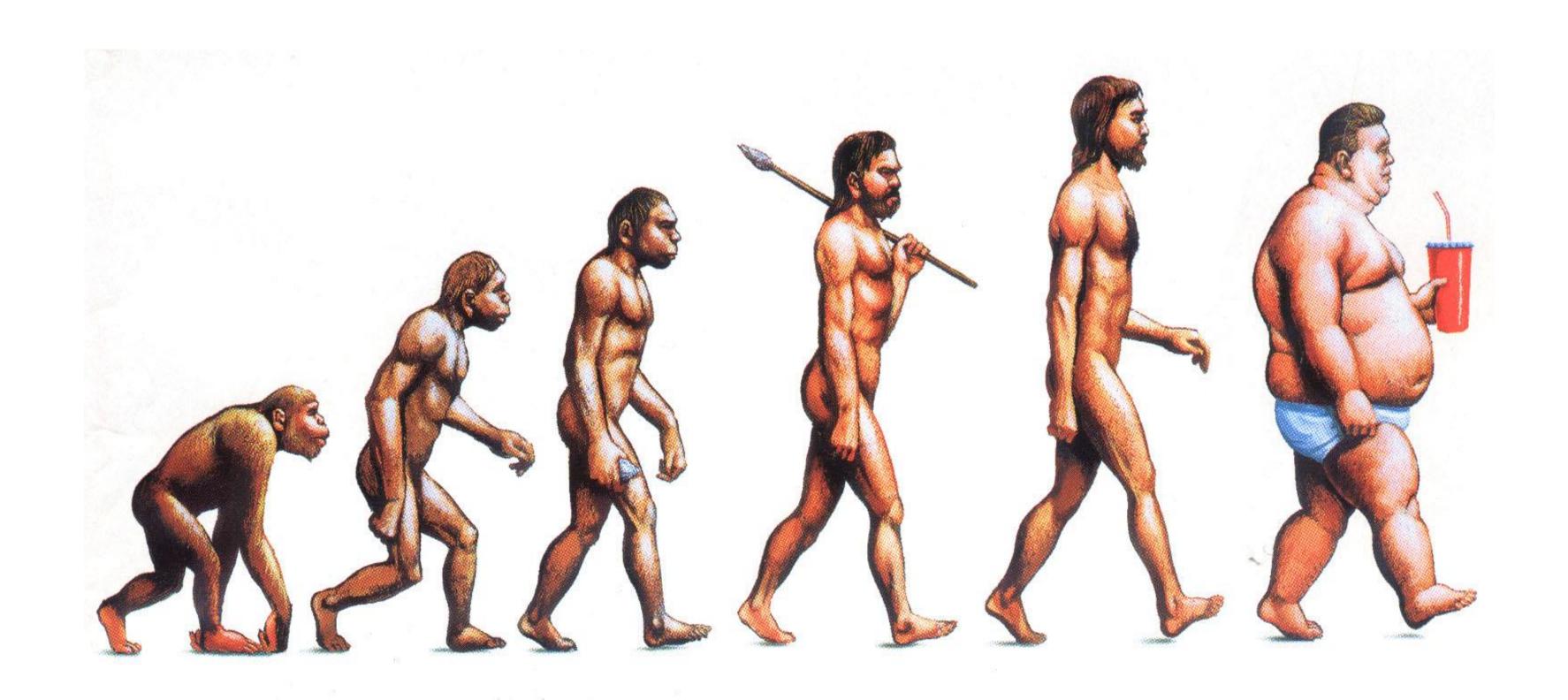




Source: University of Iowa, Carver College of Medicine, 2014



It is More Difficult to Treat Patients Who Have Multiple Chronic Diseases, and More Patients Now Do Than Before





Source: The Economist, 13 Dec 2003

Historically, the Financial Incentives for Providers to Improve Quality Have Been Weak

Two Medicare patients suffering from congestive heart failure

Hospital A: patient treated and discharged

Medicare pays MD and hospital

Patient re-admitted
2 months later
due, in part, to
imperfect
treatment

Medicare pays physician and hospital **AGAIN!**

Hospital B:
patient treated well
and discharged
and never needs
more hospital care

Medicare pays MD and hospital **ONCE** only each



Hospital Readmissions Result in Substantial Extra Payments for Medicare

- About 20% of Medicare patients (2 million per year) used to be re-admitted to a hospital within 30 days of discharge.
- Medicare considers re-admissions "a prime symptom of an overly expensive and uncoordinated health care system."
- Used to cost Medicare \$18 billion in additional hospital payments.
- Because of the ACA, hospitals with high re-admission rates are now being penalized by Medicare (we will review on Thursday), and readmission rates have fallen substantially.



It's Hard for MDs and Hospitals to Improve Quality. Without Financial Incentives to Do So, Providers Might Not Try (Hard)

- A physician panel rated the technical skill of 20 bariatric surgeons who submitted a representative video of one of their laparoscopic gastric bypass surgeries.
- A panel categorized each MD as high- or low-skilled; see examples of high- and low-skilled surgeons from video.
- The authors combined ratings with detailed data on over 10,000 patients treated by these 20 physicians
- Procedures by high-skill MDs were 39 minutes shorter, on average (across all 10,000 surgeries).
- % of patients who experienced complications: 5.2% among high-skill MDs vs. 14.5% among low-skill.
- High-skilled MDs' patients less likely to develop wound infections, pneumonia, or internal bleeding.



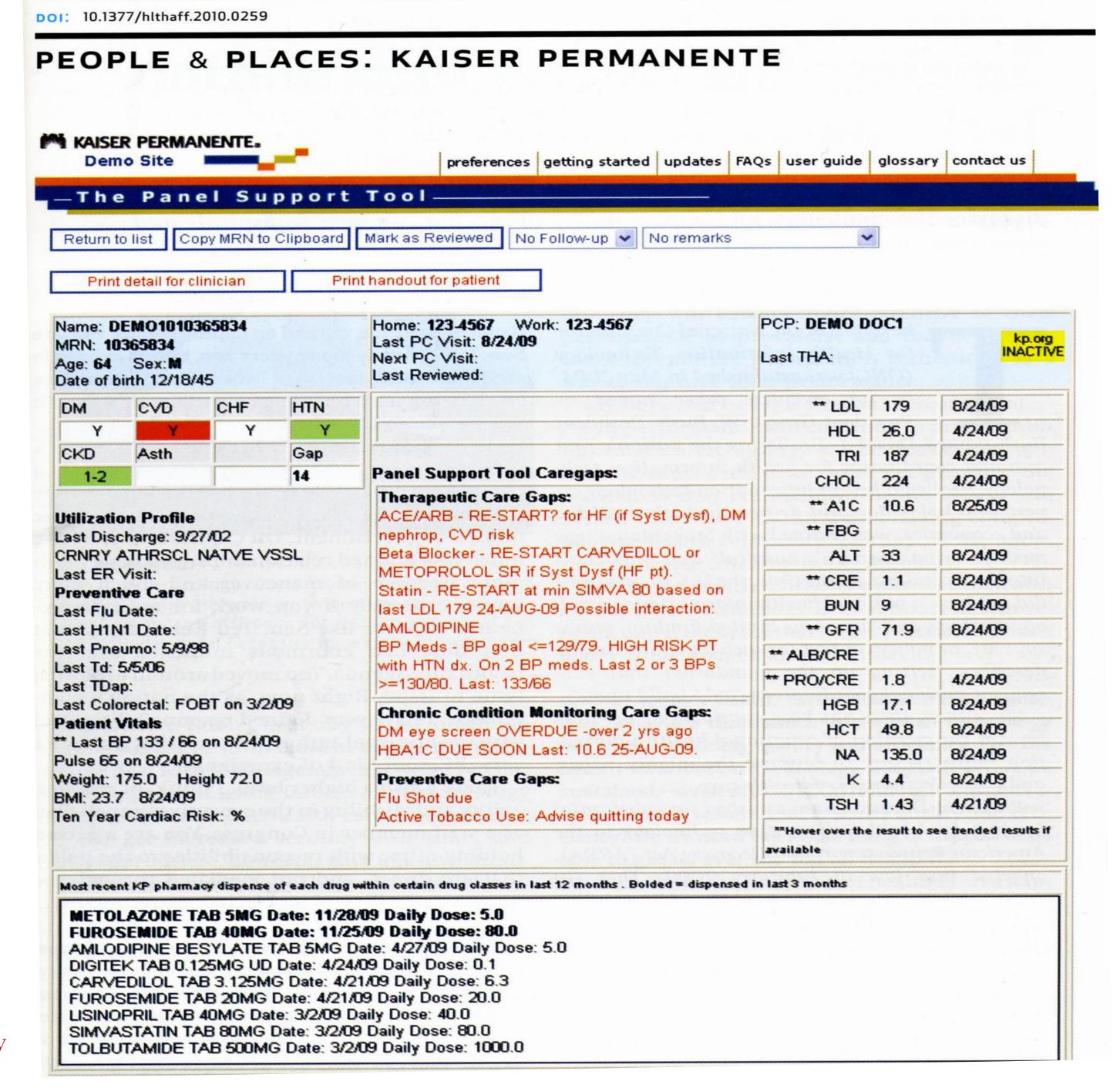
How Can the Quality of Medical Care Be Improved?

Policy #1: Health Care IT to the Rescue

"Today, no one clinician can retain all the information necessary for sound, evidence-based practice. No unaided human being can read, recall, and act effectively on the volume of clinically-relevant scientific literature."



Kaiser's Electronic Medical Record (EMR) screen shot





A 2009 Law (not the ACA) Provided Strong Financial Incentives for Physicians and Hospitals to Adopt EMRs

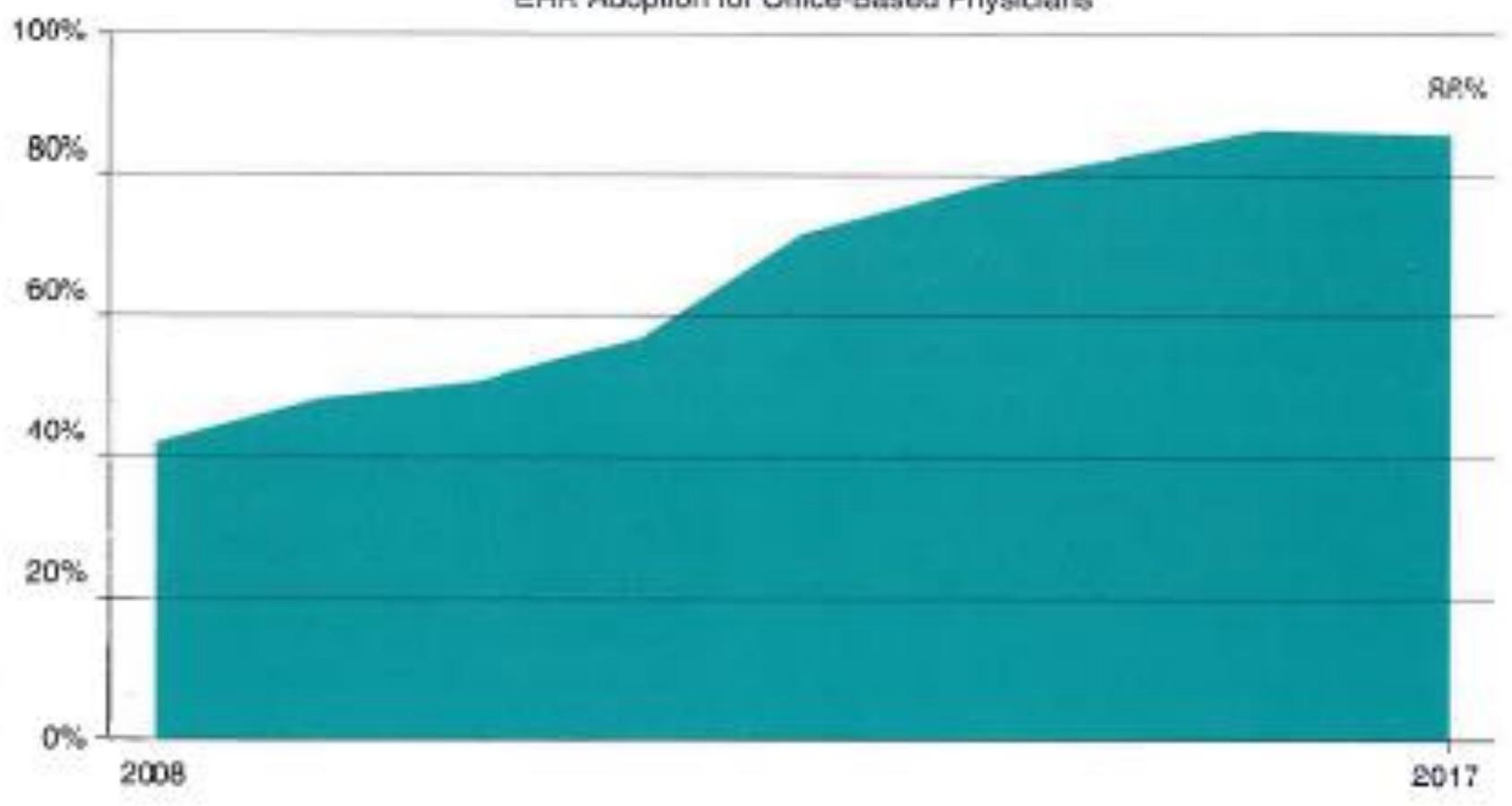
- The <u>carrots</u>: an MD who adopted an EMR system in 2011 or 2012 received extra payments of \$44,000 from the federal government to defray the start-up cost.
- An additional \$64,000 per physician was available from some state Medicaid programs.
- The <u>stick</u>: MDs who did not adopt an EMR system by 2015 had their Medicare RBRVS payments reduced by 5%.
- Hospitals could secure millions of dollars each to help offset the cost of implementing information technology.



Physicians Responded Aggressively...

Adoption of EHRs at Physician Practices and Hospitals

EHR Adoption for Office-Based Physicians





Source: Burns, Lawton, 2021.

... As Did Hospitals

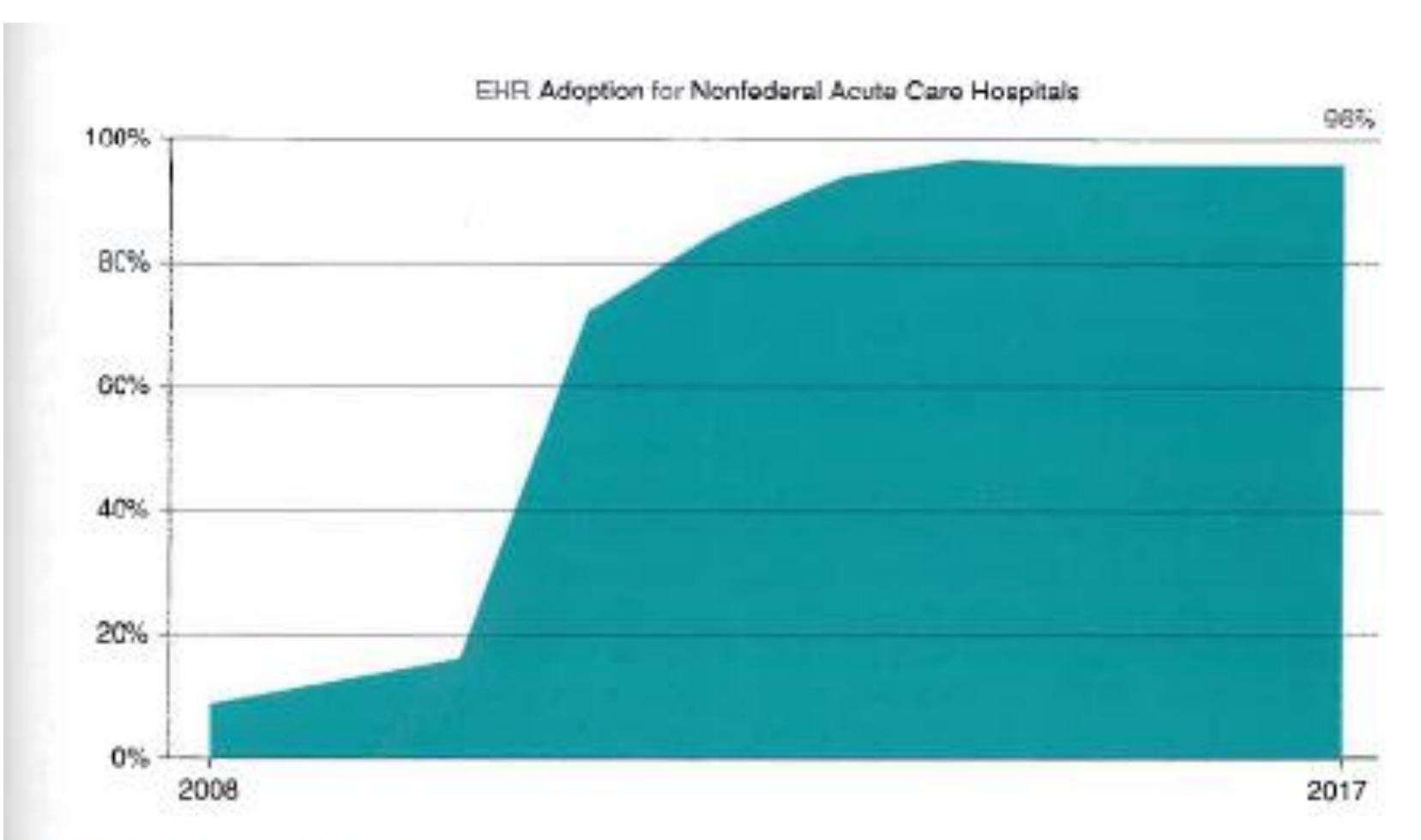


Figure 24-8 • Emergency Medical Record Adoption. EHR, Electronic Health Record. (Source: Fred Schulte and Erika Fry. Death by 1,000 Clicks: Where Electronic Health Records Went Wrong. Kaiser Family: Foundation. March 18, 2019, https://khn.org/news/Death-by-a-Thousand-Clicks/.)



Source: Burns, Lawton, 2021.

U.S. Physicians Spend 90 Minutes Per Day Using an EMR, Likely Contributing to Burnout

- EMR systems place substantial responsibility on a MD to record patient data and place medical orders.
- ➤ U.S. physicians using Epic (the dominant EMR system) spend an average of 90 minutes per day on an EMR, versus 59 minutes for MDs internationally also using Epic.
- > This includes an average of 27 minutes on the EMR after hours.
- ➤ EMR systems are not wildly popular with US MDs. Hopefully the "next generation" of EMR systems will require less MD time.



Policy #2: Publicize Information on Quality of Health Plans, Physicians, and Hospitals, and Hope Patients Shun Low-Quality Providers/Plans and That Everyone Improves Quality to Avoid Losing Patients

Surgeon Data											
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Will the Elderly Be Able to Use Information Technology to Find High-Quality Providers?

Alexa Can Help

Amazon Echo Silver

- https://www.google.com/search?source=hp&ei=ZM9VW9afDs2q_QbAm5OwDw&q=snl+amazon+echo+silver&gs_l=psy-ab.1.0.0l2j0i22i30k1l6.1480.5572.0.7591.24.23.0.0.0.0.123.1599.20j2.23.0....0...1.1.64.psy-ab..1.23.1658.6..35i39k1j0



Comments on the 2nd Prelim Exam

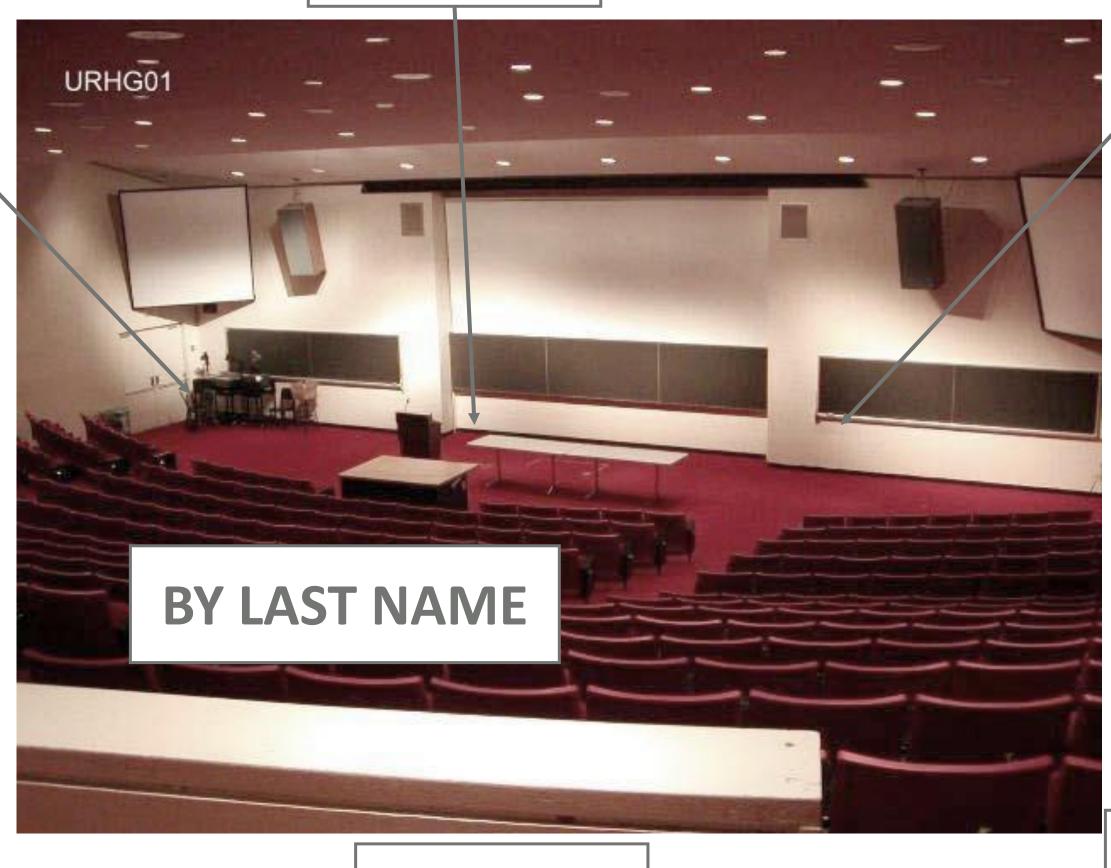
- Mean = 82.9 and Median = 86.0
- See Canvas announcement for APPROXIMATE letter grades based on two prelims only (omitting assignment grades.
- Answer key is posted on Canvas "Exams."
- Make sure your scores sum to the score posted on Canvas.
- If you think we made a mistake, <u>briefly</u> describe the possible mistake(s) on a piece of paper; attach the paper to your exam and turn it in to Prof. Nicholson by <u>November 17</u>.
- If re-graded, your score could go up OR down.



A-D

E-H

I-K



L-N

O-R

S-Z

