

Different Countries-Different Models - The USA

Blair L. Sadler, JD
Senior Fellow,
Institute for Healthcare Improvement
October 21, 2010



Question #1. US Health Care is Multi-Modal with Many Payers & Systems

- Medicare - federal
- Medicaid - federal + state
- Veterans Administration
- Indian Health Service
- Employer-based private insurance
- Out-of-pocket
 - Uninsured
 - Underinsured



US Safety and Quality Components

- Payers' requirements
- Public reporting and transparency
- National Quality Forum guidelines and "Never Events"
- Food and Drug Administration
- Consensus panels



US Safety and Quality Components (cont'd)

- Published hospital rankings
- Legal-malpractice system
- Certification, accreditation, and licensure
- Voluntary efforts – the 100,000 and 5 million lives campaigns led by IHI
- Evidence-based physical design (including music and the arts) “Transforming the Health Care Experience through the Arts” Sadler & Ridenour artandhealth.com



Question #2. Quality and Safety Revolution: Just Beginning

- The Institute of Medicine reports
- Medicare demonstration – voluntary hospital participation
- Medicare connects NQF “Never Events” to reimbursement – October 2008
- Private insurance companies are developing and testing new payment systems
- The 2010 Health Care Reform law provides new opportunities over time



Question #3. New Payment Approaches Could Save Money – Future Uncertain

- Today’s political landscape is completely polarized
- Widespread efforts underway to repeal some or all of health care reform
- Many parts of health care reform may never happen
- Societal pressure to reduce costs and improve quality and safety will continue



Question #4. US Experience Offers Only Limited Benefit to Canada

- American culture and values emphasize freedom of choice and less government
- The best parts of the American experience are the increased transparency of reporting and voluntary improvement campaigns
- It is unclear how soon payment for improved quality and safety will occur in today's political climate



Questions?

Thank You!


