**Chapter 2**

**Healthcare Delivery Systems**

*Donald W. Kellogg, PhD, CPEHR, RHIA, FAHIMA*

**Real-World Case 2.1**

The American healthcare system is a patchwork of not-for-profit and for-profit entities that provide comprehensive diagnostics and treatment services. Marsha, the supervising coder at her local hospital, became a veteran of this system after she noticed neuropathy in her right arm. She first noticed a tingling in her right shoulder and elbow in February and by July the discomfort had increased so that the tingling had become painful throughout the entire length of the arm to such a degree that the arm was almost unusable and she had to take time off from work. She set up an appointment with her family practitioner and was seen seven days later. He ordered x-rays of the arm as well as a cervical MRI. While the x-rays did not show any involvement in the affected joints, the MRI indicated cervical stenosis at the C4–C6 levels. Her physician prescribed pain medication and recommended that she see a neurologist. Her physician ordered a neurological consult, which took place three weeks later. The neurologist performed an assessment, looked over the MRI results, and referred her to a neurosurgeon at another hospital in a major city to the east to have her neck evaluated and fused. Four weeks later she was seen by a neurosurgeon who wanted her to have a cervical CT scan with contrast. The CT confirmed the cervical stenosis. Surgery was set for November 1. The surgery was successful and after six weeks of convalescence she was able to go back to work. Marsha was convinced that she had the best possible care, though the cost was extremely expensive. During the process she was involved with six medical doctors (her family physician, the neurologist, a radiologist to read the MRI scans, the neurosurgeon, another radiologist to evaluate the CT scans, and an anesthesiologist who was present during surgery) and five different facilities (her family physician office, the hospital where the x-rays and MRI were done, the neurologist’s office, the neurosurgeon’s office, and the hospital where the CT scans and the surgery on her cervical spine were conducted). Throughout the entire process Marsha was required to carry her medical record from one facility to another as the family physician and neurologist were not part of the EHR with the local hospital where she worked, nor was her hospital able to electronically share her information with the hospital where the neurosurgeon practiced. She also made sure to check her patient portal at each hospital to verify appointments and to ensure that the correct information was being entered for each of her visits.

# Real-World Case Discussion Questions

1. How could the length of time from diagnosis to surgery have been reduced for Marsha?

Instead of her being referred to the neurologist her family physician could’ve referred her straight to the neurosurgeon. Her family physician also could’ve ordered a CT scan and an MRI.

2. What are ways that Marsha could have shared her information between all of the facilities?

She could’ve provided a release of information to each of the providers so they all had the ability to share her information with each other.

3. What could her providers have done to make the sharing of information easier for Marsha?

Her providers could have implemented an electronic health record for Marsha.

**Real-World Case 2.2**

A municipal medical center in a city of 100,000 residents decided that they needed to diversify if they were going to survive the ups and downs of the economy. The board of directors met with the chief of the medical staff to determine the best course of action. They mutually decided to emphasize a cradle-to-grave approach by acquitting a few selected physician practices and a local nursing home, starting a home health agency, and creating a hospice unit within the medical center. The board then decided to link all of their new acquisitions to the medical center’s existing EHR but ran into a problem with patient identification for medical record purposes. The issue was that the same patient may have been or were going to be in multiple facilities within the new enterprise. However, at each of the present facilities (physician office, medical center, and nursing home) the same patient would have different medical record numbers. A plan for an enterprise medical record number was needed. The medical center administration decided to bring in the HIM director of the medical center to provide expertise and experience in resolving the problem.

# Real-World Case Discussion Questions

1. How is this situation complicated by not having all of the facilities linked into a common EHR?

The facilities that aren’t linked to the common EHR might not transfer all or may omit information due to the record numbers being separate/different.

2. Whom would the HIM director have to work with to make an EMPI project successful?

CIO- Chief Information officer

3. What are the advantages to all facilities of having a shared health record number?

All patient information is located in one central location instead of having to wait for the information to be transferred.

# Application Exercises

*Instructions:* Answer the following questions.

1. Break into small groups. Each group will identify a terminal condition for a patient and determine the pathway that that patient will take starting from their family medicine clinic to ending with hospice care.
2. Once the pathways have been determined for your group’s terminal patient, evaluate the process, looking for bottlenecks and places where the patient will feel neglected or treated as a subject rather than as a person. Make suggestions as to how the healthcare delivery system could be improved for their patient.

3. Complete the following table by detailing the responsibilities of each type of staff member.

Organization of Hospital Services

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Staff Position** | **Responsibilities** |
| Board of directors | Setting the overall direction of the hospital |
| Medical staff | To provide high-quality care to patients |
| Administrative staff | Ensure that all care complies with federal, state and local rules, standards and laws |
| Patient care services | Responsible for providing around the clock treatment and support for patients |
| Diagnostic services | To provide diagnostic services to patients that help identify illness |
| Administrative support services | Provides vital clinical information to patients, medical staff, visitors and employees |

**Review Quiz**

*Instructions:* For each item, complete the statement correctly or choose the most appropriate answer.

1. Which of the following places an emphasis on treating individual patients at the level of care required by their course of treatment and extends from their primary care providers to specialists and ancillary providers?

a. Continuum of care

2. As of 2014, what percent of the U.S. economy was represented by healthcare spending?

b. 17.5

3. What is the ideal ratio of medical generalist to specialist?

c. 60:40

4. Registered Nurses are only formally educated at the bachelor’s degree.

b. False

5. Which of the following is considered an Allied Health professional?

d. Licensed Practical Nurses

6. Occupational Therapists are concerned with a patient’s activities of daily living.

a. True

7. Which of the following federal laws created Medicare and Medicaid?

c. Public Law 89-97 of 1965

8. Medicare will pay the Medicaid premiums, deductibles, and coinsurance costs for some low-income Medicaid beneficiaries.

b. False

9. What is the name of the process to determine whether medical care provided to a specific patient is necessary according to pre-established objective screening criteria at time frames specified.

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d. Utilization review

10. HITECH was a portion of which bill?

c. American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

11. What is the name of the type of beds in a hospital that are defined by those authorized by the state?

a. Staffed

12. To qualify as a Critical Access Hospital one of the criteria is to be located in a rural area.

a. True

13. One of the functions of the board of directors is to approve the organization and makeup of the clinical staff.

a. True

14. The “C” in CIO stands for:

d. Chief

15. Health information management departments are considered which of the following?

c. Administrative Support Services

16. Hospital-owned group practices are considered ambulatory care organizations.

a. True

b. False

17. One group of patients that prefer treatment at urgent care centers are those whose insurance carriers treat urgent care centers preferentially when compared with physician offices.

a. True

b. False

18. Which of the following is the fastest-growing sector to offer services for Medicare recipients?

d. Home health

19. Rehabilitation hospitals are categorized as an acute care type of facility in treating patients.

a. True

20. Which of the following is a main goal in treating hospice patients?

c. Minimize the stress and trauma of death

21. Which of the following is the health profession that focuses on the eyes and related structures?

b. Optometry

22. Public Law 89-97 of 1965 created a number of amendments to which Act?

c. Social Security Act

23. The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology was created as part of which Act?

d. American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

24. Who has the primary responsibility for setting the overall direction of the hospital?

Board of directors

25. The medical staff operates according to a pre-determined set of policies called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

b. Medical staff bylaws