

Four Essential Elements Of True Health Reform

Timothy Johnson, M.D.

I recently said I would describe the essential elements of “true reform.” I realize others might add or subtract from my list, but here it is – at least for today:

Payment reform. I put this first because no matter what form or structure healthcare takes, without payment reform it will be doomed to failure. And by “payment reform” I mean switching from the “fee for service” model I discussed in an earlier column – which basically pays more for doing more whether or not it is needed – to some kind of “outcomes” payment system.

There are many “outcomes” payment ideas – bundling, global, etc. – but they are all designed in theory to force providers to live within a certain budget for a given patient. Obviously, this is a huge culture change and will require many years – and many mistakes – to figure out.

But I think it is probably the most essential ingredient of true reform. (I would also include malpractice reform in this category; by switching to a no-fault system we would remove a large incentive to do unnecessary testing and treating.

[Continue reading...](#) [1]

Source URL (retrieved on 01/31/2015 - 3:07am):

http://www.surgicalproductsmag.com/blogs/2012/12/four-essential-elements-true-health-reform?qt-most_popular=0

Links:

[1] <http://www.kevinmd.com/blog/2012/12/4-essential-elements-true-health-reform.html>