

ANNALS OF HEALTH LAW
ADVANCE DIRECTIVE
Editor's Note

The *Annals of Health Law* is proud to present the fourth Issue of our online journal, *Advance Directive*. Consistent with our goal of promoting student health law scholarship, this Issue features articles addressing the quality of our current healthcare system.

This Issue begins with a look at the different types of health care options that could improve the quality of care in the United States. First, our authors examine concierge medicine as a high quality health care option. Second, our authors explore the quality of care currently provided at retail health clinics. Finally, home healthcare programs are analyzed for their ability to ensure high quality of care for the aging population of baby boomers.

Next, the Issue transitions into examining the advancements in technology that can contribute to improving quality of care. Specifically, our authors suggest that providing education and preventing consumer misconceptions regarding direct-to-consumer genetic testing could improve quality of care; the use of telemedicine can be improved to increase quality by removing licensing and reimbursement barriers; and ; and that telemedicine has the potential to improving quality of care for patients living in rural areas.

The Issue then proposes future changes to the health care system that could improve quality of care for patients. First, our authors propose ways to improve the quality of care in response to disasters. Second, our authors suggest that preventing a physician's morals from interfering with the fiduciary duty of care can improve quality. Third, our authors discuss that health care can be improved through the use of the Physician's Quality Reporting Initiative as a way to

measure a physician's performance. Finally, our authors support that the PROMETHEUS model is a better payment system to improve quality of care because it factors in a patient's health.

Finally, the Issue delves into the financial and legal issues affecting quality of care in the United States. In particular, our authors investigate utilizing a business case for quality of care initiatives; how defensive medicine, as it applies to physicians, patients, lawyers, and Congress, affects the quality of care; the effect of medical malpractice on the quality of care; and how implementing medical malpractice damage caps can improve the quality of care.

We would like to thank Mallory Golas, our *Advance Directive* Senior Editor, and Themistocles Frangos, our Technical Production Editor, for their invaluable contributions in launching this Issue. We would like to specially thank our *Annals* Editor-in-Chief, Kendell Coker, for increasing access to *Advance Directive*. We also are grateful to our *Annals* Executive Board members— Amy Fuetterer, Kevin Lichtenberg, and Victor Allen—for their editorial assistance. Our *Annals* members deserve particular recognition for writing timely, thoughtful articles and for editing the work of their peers. Finally, we extend our warmest appreciation to the Beazley Institute and our faculty advisors, Professors Lawrence Singer and John Blum, for their continued support, encouragement, and mentorship.

We hope you enjoy our fourth Issue of *Advance Directive*.

Sincerely,

Jana E. Harris
Advance Directive Editor
Annals of Health Law
Loyola University Chicago School of Law