

Annals of Health Law

Advance Directive

Editor's Note

The *Annals of Health Law* is proud to present the Sixth Issue of our online counterpart, *Advance Directive*. Consistent with our goal of promoting student scholarship in the area of health law, this Issue features articles focusing on the sweeping changes in health care initiated by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), specifically the impact on access of care.

This Issue begins with exploring innovations in health care through a patient's perspective. First, it analyzes patient-centered medical homes and determines whether these community health programs provide comprehensive, high-quality health care. Next, our authors evaluate extending the role of the independent nurse practitioner in an effort to provide quality health care in a cost-efficient manner. Our authors also examine whether expanding access to health care necessarily involves the increase of health information technology and the prohibition on rescission of health insurance.

Next, the Issue discusses initiatives in the PPACA that attempt to regulate the high costs of care. Our authors propose establishing additional requirements for charitable hospitals to help balance the financial burdens charged to uninsured patients. They also explore whether the structure, payments, data collection, and involvement of the Federal government through the physician quality reporting

initiative will result in less expensive care for patients. With these and other initiatives to increase the affordability of health care, our authors propose the overuse of emergency care will decrease and subsequently improve both urgent and non-urgent care, while cutting overall health care costs. Additionally, the authors argue that these improvements will cause a decrease in medical bankruptcies attributed to staggering medical bills and the rising costs of prescription medication.

The Issue then transitions into examining the effects of the PPACA on Medicare and Medicaid services in order to provide health care to low-income and uninsured populations. First, our authors evaluate the effectiveness of the Independent Payment Advisory Board, which will develop and propose modifications to the payment system under Medicare to curb spending. Second, the authors analyze Medicare's proposed rules for a value-based purchasing program. Finally, our authors address the expansion of Medicaid eligibility to low income individuals and propose methods to ensure eligibility results in enrollment in the program.

We also address several provisions in the PPACA that promote research and development of pharmaceuticals. Our authors begin by analyzing the impact of the Biologics Act on the development of biologics and biosimilars. Specifically, they discuss whether this Act will encourage investment and development of innovative drugs. Our authors then compare these medical innovations with those in the United Kingdom.

Finally, the Issue analyzes the strengths and weaknesses of the PPACA. Our authors explore whether the PPACA will cause a long-term relief on the budget and taxpayers. Particularly, it reviews whether current estimates by the Congressional Budget Office present an accurate projection of the price of the legislation on the financial future of America.

We would like to thank Sara Zweig, our *Advance Directive* Senior Editor, Jonathon Brouk, our Editor-at-Large, and Christopher Carlson, our Technical Editor, for their invaluable contributions in launching this issue. We would like to specially thank our *Annals* Editor-in-Chief, Joseph Van Leer, for increasing access to *Advance Directive* via Westlaw. We are also grateful to our *Annals* Executive Board Members, Megan Stiarwalt, Drew McCormick, and Mallory Golas, for their editorial assistance. The *Annals* membership deserves particular recognition for writing timely, thoughtful articles and for editing the work for their peers. Finally, we extend our warmest appreciation to the Beazely Institute for Health Law & Policy and our faculty advisors, Professor Lawrence Singer, Professor John Blum, and Megan Bess for their continued support, encouragement, and mentorship. We hope you enjoy our Sixth Issue of *Advance Directive*.

Sincerely,

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