New England Healthcare Institute

2009 Impact Statement

REDUCING WASTEFUL SPENDING	
Emergency Department Overuse	**Goal:** To reduce the overuse of emergency departments for non-urgent conditions by reshaping the delivery of care so patients receive the care they need in the most appropriate, patient-centered and cost-effective setting. **Impact:** NEHI identified a series of promising strategies for reducing ED overuse. **What's Next:** NEHI is working with partners to test the strategies and create a road map to reduce ED overuse nationally.
Patient Medication Adherence	**Goal:** To improve the health of patients with chronic illness through improved medication adherence. **Impact:** NEHI convened a coalition of national experts and opinion leaders and published a report identifying innovative system-wide solutions to nonadherence. The report received high media visibility. **What's Next:** NEHI is developing plans for system-wide demonstration projects to test the most promising adherence strategies.
Primary Care Redesign	**Goal:** To identify innovations that enhance the quality, efficiency and effectiveness of primary care and primary care education. **Impact:** NEHI's research on the causes of the primary care crisis and strategies to address it is serving as the foundation for an upcoming NEHI roundtable and a later symposium by the Josiah Macy Foundation. **What's Next:** NEHI is working to improve and coordinate the education of medical and nursing school students to enhance and support primary care.
Waste and Inefficiency	**Goal:** To identify the sources and costs of waste in clinical care and promote strategies to reduce it. **Impact:** NEHI identified the sources of nearly $800 billion in wasteful spending, including five systemic issues with the greatest potential for cost savings, and published a series of reports that have achieved high media visibility and attracted interest from members of Congress. **What's Next:** NEHI is developing a series of briefing papers to inform and educate policymakers on effective strategies to reduce waste in health care.
PROMOTING DISEASE PREVENTION AND WELLNESS	
Healthy People/ Healthy Economy	**Goal:** To address the rise in health care costs and the rising tide of preventable chronic disease through a campaign to improve overall health and fitness. **Impact:** NEHI contributed to the local and national debate on prevention and healthy behaviors with its blueprint for wellness in Massachusetts. **What's Next:** NEHI is working with the Boston Foundation to launch a high-profile campaign for implementing a statewide wellness initiative.

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ADVANCING MEDICAL INNOVATION	
Comparative Effectiveness Research	**Goal:** To shape the policies and implementation of comparative effectiveness research (CER) so that it sustains the development and adoption of valuable innovation throughout the health care system. **Impact:** NEHI brought together key federal policymakers and national experts at a critical juncture in the formulation of the new federal CER program. NEHI's guiding principles were subsequently reflected in the CER policy directives issued by the Institute of Medicine and the Federal Coordinating Council on Comparative Effectiveness Research. **What's Next:** NEHI will work to develop and promote effective strategies to enhance the dissemination and application of CER findings to ensure that they benefit patients.
Computerized Physician Order Entry	**Goal:** To improve patient safety by fostering adoption of computerized physician order entry systems in U.S. hospitals. **Impact:** In response to NEHI's research and policy outreach, both Massachusetts and the U.S. enacted legislation for hospitals to adopt CPOE by 2012 and 2015 respectively. **What's Next:** NEHI and its partner, the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative, are committed to providing implementation support to Massachusetts hospitals in all stages of CPOE planning, adoption and operation. NEHI will also continue to promote CPOE at the national level.
Fast Adoption of Significant Technologies	**Goal:** To speed the adoption of technologies with strong potential for increasing health care quality and lowering health care costs. **Impact:** NEHI's most recent *FAST* research identified a series of promising telemedicine technologies for the management of chronic illness. **What's Next:** NEHI will conduct a demonstration project to test the clinical and financial benefits of Home Telehealth, a telemedicine tool that enables patients to take an active role in managing their chronic diseases.
Tele-Intensive Care Units	**Goal:** To improve the quality and lower the costs of intensive care in U.S. hospitals. **Impact:** NEHI's demonstration project with UMass Memorial Medical Center is expected to show that using technology to remotely monitor intensive care patients has both clinical and financial benefits. **What's Next:** NEHI will use its data to foster the adoption of tele-ICUs in U.S. hospitals.