

NEHI News – Fall 2009

Dear NEHI Members and Friends:

Health reform continues to be the talk of the town in Washington. If there is one common message emerging from the ongoing debate, it's that the status quo will no longer stand. It's time for change.

At NEHI, we believe that innovation must continue to drive this change. On October 15, we will honor four health care leaders whose innovative approaches have achieved significant advances in health. We hope you can join us for this extraordinary event; [click here for more details.](#)



All the best,
Wendy Everett
President

NEHI to Hold Primary Care Summit with Medical and Nursing School Deans

With the U.S. primary care system in crisis, NEHI will hold a first-of-its-kind summit bringing together deans of leading medical and nursing schools to examine opportunities to enhance the quality and efficiency of primary care.

The summit will include a panel of deans from across the country who have successfully established collaborative relationships between physicians, nurses, nurse practitioners, physician assistants and other caregivers that better promote team-based primary care. The session will focus on producing a set of consensus principles making the case for change and outlining potential strategies to disseminate to the broader medical and nursing education communities.

The summit will take place on Tuesday, October 27 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Hotel Marlowe in Cambridge, MA. To attend, please [sign up here.](#)

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UPCOMING EVENTS

NEHI Board Meeting
October 15

NEHI Innovators in Health Awards
Forum and Reception
October 15

Primary Care: Education for the
Future - A Summit of Medical and
Nursing School Deans
October 27

For more info or to RSVP,
visit [NEHI Events.](#)

EVENT PHOTOS

**Thinking Outside the Pillbox
Roundtable**
July 23, 2009

NEHI Expert Roundtable Addresses Patient Medication Non-adherence

NEHI members, project sponsors and invited guests gathered on July 23 for an interactive expert panel discussion titled “Thinking Outside the Pillbox: A System-wide Approach to Improving Patient Medication Adherence for Chronic Disease.”

The discussion began with a review of NEHI’s background research, which identified 10 strategies to improve medication adherence. Expert panelists and audience members were asked to take a system-wide perspective and vote on how they would invest among the 10 strategies to get the greatest improvement in adherence. There was surprising consensus among the two groups, with support coalescing around care teams, patient engagement and education, payment reform, and health information technology.

NEHI looks forward to using the roundtable as a guide as it educates public and private policymakers on the scope of the adherence problem and investigates the most promising ways to improve adherence through the launch of demonstration projects.

[Click here](#) to view a *Modern Healthcare* article on NEHI’s patient adherence issue brief.

[Click here](#) to view a *Wall Street Journal* blog on NEHI’s patient adherence issue brief.

[Click here](#) to view a *Boston Globe* article on NEHI’s patient adherence issue brief.

NEHI Presents at National Comparative Effectiveness Research Forum

NEHI Executive Director Valerie Fleishman presented the findings of NEHI’s white paper, “Balancing Act: Comparative Effectiveness Research and Innovation in U.S. Health Care,” to the National Comparative Effectiveness Summit last month in Washington, DC.

There was consensus among public officials, academics and business leaders at the summit that reflected the four recommendations of the NEHI white paper: clinical effectiveness should be the primary focus of CER; the topics should be broad in scope; there should be significant investment in new CER methodologies; and strategies should be put in place to translate and disseminate findings to the point of care.

NEHI Member Spotlight: National Health Council

An Interview with Myrl Weinberg, President



[View all](#)

QUOTE OF NOTE

“As much as \$850 billion spent on medical care each year ‘can be eliminated without reducing the quality of care,’ according to a 2008 report by the New England Healthcare Institute.”

— **The Washington Post**;
September 29, 2009

NEW NEHI MEMBERS



Leadership: Joseph O’Hara, SVP,
CMT Division COO

Sector: Wellness and Care
Management

Mission: “Care Management Technologies (CMT) harnesses the information present in modern healthcare databases by applying multiple filters of evidence-driven and expert-based consensus to align care with best practices.”



NATIONAL HEALTH COUNCIL

Leadership: Myrl Weinberg,
President

Sector: Patient/Consumer

Mission: “The mission of the National Health Council is to provide a united voice for people with chronic diseases and for their



Who is represented in the health reform debate?

At the National Health Council (NHC), we distinguish between consumers and patients when talking with lawmakers. This is because most consumers move in and out of the health care system and are generally in good health. The patients represented by the NHC – people with chronic diseases and disabilities – are dependent on the health care system for the

rest of their lives after diagnosis. I believe the patient community's demand for a coordinated health care system that meets their individual needs is why we are having the debate, which is good. My hope is Congress will respond appropriately to their call for action.

What are the patient priorities you would like to see in health reform legislation?

In 2008, the NHC created the Campaign to Put Patients First. It is a patient initiative to enact health care legislation built on five core principles:

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- Cover everyone;
- Curb costs responsibly;
- Abolish exclusions for pre-existing conditions;
- Eliminate lifetime caps on benefits; and
- Ensure access to long-term and end-of-life care.

What are the main barriers in health care for the chronically ill?

We often recite the Institute of Medicine's quality statement: Getting the right care at the right time to the right patient for the right price. The main barrier for people with chronic diseases and disabilities is the lack of a value-based health care delivery system that addresses all of these elements. We need an innovative delivery model that utilizes the best of medical research, recognizes a patient's personal predicaments, reimburses for care coordination and is committed to providing the most cost-effective care from the perspective of both the patient and the payer.

What are the top three things that health care company CEOs should do to serve the patient community better?

First, support models of care that provide value to both the employee and the employer. Second, support efforts to develop new government incentives for innovations in care. Third, work with the patient advocacy community to help educate employees on ways to take control over their health status.

With whom do patients most want to collaborate?

Repeated polling has shown that patients most want to collaborate



Leadership: Andrin Oswald, MD, CEO

Sector: Pharmaceutical

Mission: "By its very function, Novartis Vaccines plays a key role in the Novartis core mission: keeping healthy people healthy by alleviating suffering and enhancing quality of life. At Novartis Vaccines, caring begins with prevention."

[See all NEHI Members](#)

with their health providers. Other polls have demonstrated that nonprofit organizations are a highly trusted source of health information. We need all stakeholders – patients, businesses, providers, payers and the nonprofit community – working in alignment to create a value-based system of care.

If you could inject one key point into health reform, what would it be?

Cover everyone utilizing a value-based plan design.

NEHI in the News

[“In Delivering Care, More Isn't Always Better, Experts Say”](#)

The Washington Post, September 29, 2009

[“It's Time For a Chronic Health Care Bailout”](#)

Kaiser Health News, September 24, 2009

[“Unraveling Why Patients Don't Take Their Meds”](#)

The Wall Street Journal Health Blog, September 14, 2009

[“Study Urges Action to Get Patients to Follow Prescriptions”](#)

The Boston Globe, August 14, 2009

[“Time to Get Serious About Health Promotion”](#)

WBUR's CommonHealth Blog, July 20, 2009

[“The Recession Is Making Us Sick”](#)

The Boston Globe, July 2, 2009

[“NEHI Calls for Wellness Campaign to Curb Chronic Illness and Lower Costs in Massachusetts”](#)

Healthcare Finance News, July 1, 2009

New England Healthcare Institute

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