

Remaking American Medicine is ambitious in scope, journeying across the nation to follow dedicated individuals and institutions as they work to bridge the “quality chasm.”

Program One - “Silent Killer” -- Every year at least 98,000 Americans are killed – and countless more are injured – as a result of medical errors. This program begins by profiling the efforts of Sorrel King, whose 18-month-old daughter died at one of the most respected hospitals in the world, Johns Hopkins. King has gone from grieving victim to engaged activist, partnering with Johns Hopkins to make safety a top priority at the institution. Now she has joined forces with Dr. Donald Berwick, a nationally recognized patient safety advocate, to save 100,000 lives in American hospitals.



Program Two - “First Do No Harm” -- This program focuses on the impact of hospital-acquired infections and medical errors in two institutions, and follows the efforts of physicians who are challenging their colleagues to live up to their oath to “First Do No Harm.” In Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Dr. Richard Shannon, chief of medicine at Allegheny General Hospitals, is confronting an epidemic of hospital-acquired infections that are shattering the lives of their victims. Hackensack University Medical Center in New Jersey is engaged in an effort to completely transform the way the institution delivers care. The goal in both hospitals is to ensure that the people trusted to provide safe and effective medical treatment do not harm patients.



Program Three - “The Stealth Epidemic” -- Chronic diseases, like diabetes and congestive heart failure, affect nearly 100 million Americans, and treatment of these illnesses consumes nearly 70 percent of all health care resources. Yet doctors are often unable to prevent needless suffering or even death, and these failures are threatening the viability of our entire health care system. This program looks at groundbreaking efforts in two very different communities -- Los Angeles and Whatcom County in the state of Washington -- that are fundamentally transforming the physician-patient relationship ... and offer a glimmer of hope for patients across the country who are struggling with their chronic conditions.



Program Four - “Hand in Hand” -- As medicine continues to become more and more technologically sophisticated and the systems that deliver medical care become more complex, the relationship between providers and patients and their families is more important than ever. This final program tells the story of patients and families who have formed a unique bond in a teaching hospital in Augusta, Georgia to transform the institution into a nationally recognized facility, where partnership is a guiding vision to the care it delivers.



“Between the health care we have and the care we could have lies not just a gap, but a chasm. The American health care delivery system is in need of fundamental change.”

--- Crossing the Quality Chasm: A New Health System for the 21st Century
A Report from the Institute of Medicine

A System in Need of Critical Care

Each year Americans spend over a trillion dollars on the health care system. We waste as much as a third of those dollars, either not helping patients or, worse, harming them.

No individual, rich or poor, is immune from the shortcomings of American medicine. Spiraling health care expenditures provide absolutely no assurance of quality outcomes.

While good people are doing the best they can, research has underscored the enormous human and financial toll exacted by a system that makes it difficult to provide safe and effective care for its patients.



“We envision a system of care in which those who give care can boast about their work, and those who receive care can feel total trust and confidence in the care they are receiving.”

– Donald M. Berwick, MD, president and CEO
Institute for Healthcare Improvement

The Series

As many as 98,000 Americans die each year in hospitals due to preventable medical errors. Medical errors kill as many people per year as breast cancer, HIV-AIDS and car accidents. These and other equally startling statistics underscore the chaotic conditions within the American health care system. *Remaking American Medicine™...Health Care for the 21st Century* explores the quality crisis and the innovative solutions being undertaken by providers, patients and their families to transform the care provided by the institutions we all depend on. The four-part series will premiere on PBS on October 5 at 10 p.m. (check local listings).

Peabody Award and Emmy Award-winning broadcast journalist John Hockenberry serves as host. The series is a production of Crosskeys Media® led by award-winning documentary filmmakers Frank Christopher and Matthew Eisen.

Each program examines critical health care issues facing Americans today including patient safety, medical errors, hospital-acquired infections, family-centered care and effective management of chronic disease. Rather than assign blame for the failings in health care, *Remaking American Medicine* tells stories of change. It features the pioneering work of *Champions of Change*, individuals and institutions committed to making health care in America safe, evidence-based, efficient and effective.

“Diabetes is having a devastating impact on our country. Not only is it becoming more common, it’s becoming more common at a younger and younger age.”

- Dr. Anne Peters



The series will inspire and empower viewers. It will demonstrate what is possible and what quality of care truly means. Most importantly, it will challenge everyone to join in the urgent effort to transform American health care.

The series and accompanying national outreach campaign are made possible thanks to the following funders and supporters: the Amgen Foundation, lead sponsor; The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation®, major underwriter; The Nathan Cummings Foundation; and the Josiah Macy, Jr. Foundation. Additional resources have been provided by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, an agency of the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

www.RAMcampaign.org

It’s Your Health...You Call the Shots

Supporting the television series is a national outreach campaign designed to mobilize and initiate sweeping change throughout the American health system.

Forty-eight prestigious organizations representing a broad cross section of practitioners, purchasers, providers, consumer and patient advocates, quality health care experts, policy-makers and government and regulatory organizations have joined the campaign. They are encouraging their members, colleagues and constituents to promote the series, underscore the importance of quality care and become involved at the local, regional and national levels.

National Partners include AARP, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, American Cancer Society, American Health Quality Association, American Heart Association, American Hospital Association, American Nurses Association, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Institute for Family-Centered Care, Institute for Healthcare Improvement, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Business Coalition on Health and the National Governors Association, among others.



Champion of Change Dr. Anne Peters

Nationally renowned diabetologist Dr. Anne Peters is one of the top 20 physicians treating diabetes in the country. Dr. Peters believes that diabetes is quickly becoming the most serious epidemic the U.S. has ever faced. Featured in Program Three of the series, she is currently developing the nation’s largest outreach program for community-based diabetes prevention and treatment.

Improving Health Care – Community by Community

PBS stations across the country, in collaboration with Quality Improvement Organizations and local health care organizations are developing coalitions dedicated to quality improvement. You may wish to participate in Town Hall meetings, health care forums and discussion groups. For more information, log on to “Connect with Others” on the official campaign Web site www.RAMcampaign.org.

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