New Directions in HealthCare J. Knox Singleton Medical Automation International '07 "Vital Signs: Saving Lives, Cutting Costs"



Learning Objectives

- 1. Understand principal challenges in health care delivery.
- 2. Identify most common areas of organizational strategic response.
- 3. Outline areas of high potential for application



Changes in Health Care Environment

- 1. Demographic changes
- 2. Payment pressures
- 3. Workforce shortages
- 4. Physician relationships
- 5. Clinical and information technology
- 6. Competition and regulation
- 7. Consumerism and transparency



Demographics Shifts

- 1. Aging-generated demand
- 2. Immigration-related demand
- 3. Graying of the baby boomers
- 4. Loss of coverage for pre-medicare population
- 5. Increasing disparity of health status



Payment Declines

- 1. Utilization up/price down
- 2. Have and have not doctors
- 3. Trend to episodes of care
- 4. P4P
- 5. Return of capitation



Workforce Woes

- 1. Disappearing nurses/inadequate resupply
- 2. 2.5 new MD's = 1 old MD
- 3. Public and private university consensus
- 4. Housing and transportation diminish supply

Declining Physician Economics

- 1. Rich get richer/poor get poorer
- 2. Medicare playing wack-a-mole
- 3. Stark laws limit outside income
- 4. Conflict changes in drugs/devices



Clinical & Information Technology



- 1. Transfer from employers to drug/device makers
- 2. IT spend high and going higher
- 3. Consolidation of platform IT companies
- 4. Data mining and clinical process priorities



Competition/Regulation

- 1. Competition ↓ Regulation ↑
- 2. COPN decline reversal
- 3. "Compete on quality and safety"
- 4. IRS benefit and service rules ↑



Consumerism/Transparency



- 1. Institution and doctor-specific disclosure
- 2. Price disclosure requirements
- 3. Safety and quality event visibility
- 4. Ranking intermediaries grow



Challenges for Hospitals & Physicians

- 1. Declining practice economic vitality/doctor shortages
- 2. Declining hospital economics
- 3. Demand for services ↑
- 4. Large capital requirements for replacement infrastructure
- 5. Providing services to growing uninsured/underinsured populations



Private Practice Decline



- 1. Growing shortage of MD's
- 2. Coverage of Emergency Departments and Inova
- 3. Aging practice style/skills shortage
- 4. Inability to expand services

Declining Hospital Economics

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- 1. Lower margins/less debt/less spending
- 2. De-marketing certain services
- 3. Slower technology diffusion



Growing Demand for Services

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- 1. Aging and in-migration
- 2. Most demand is low pay/public payers
- 3. Shifting of payment responsibility to consumer
- 4. Technology growth still major factor



Capital Squeeze

- 1. IT vs. bricks and mortar
- 2. Replacement vs. new technology
- 3. Safety required investments
- 4. Debt capacity/cash from operations sliding



Growing Uninsured

- 1. Focus of public policy
- 2. Lots of children
- 3. Increasing diversity and pre-medicare
- 4. Advent of chronic disease
- 5. Housing and home based care related needs



Hospital/Doctor Response?

- 1. Move to "focused factory" approach
- 2. Multispecialty "Mayo Clinic" model
- 3. Employed high acuity doctors
- 4. Ownership of health-related education
- 5. Promotion of system brands
- 6. Expanded investment in technology



Why Focused Factories?

- 1. High volume/low cost
- 2. High quality, safety, outcomes
- 3. Less capital/less duplication
- 4. Shared ownership potential



Why Mayo Clinic Model?

- 1. Internal referral
- 2. Economies of scale IT, Ancillaries, Mgt
- 3. Better brand appeal to consumers
- 4. Better control of quality and productivity



Why Employed MD's?

- 1. Aligned economics incentives
- 2. Malpractice coverage
- 3. Hospital/professional economic policy
- 4. Corporate employment benefits schedule, call, etc.



Why Owned Health Education?

- 1. Only alternative
- 2. Synergy with employment brand perception
- 3. Enhanced recruiting
- 4. Reduced turnover and orientation costs



Why System or Clinic Brands?

- 1. More consumer decisionmaking/more control
- 2. Inherent economies of scale
- 3. Build customer loyalty
- 4. Move allegiance from doctor to hospital (e.g. Mayo)



Drivers of Technology Investments



- 1. Improve productivity
- 2. Improve system efficiency
- 3. Improve clinical process safety and effectiveness
- 4. Create new system capabilities



Productivity Improvement

- 1. Cycle time, e.g. CAT scan, X-ray
- 2. Production costs, e.g. lab, pharmacy
- 3. Reduced errors/waste, e.g. pharmacy robots
- 4. Capital utilization, e.g. system-wide scheduling



System Efficiency

- 1. Home-based care, e.g. home monitoring
- 2. Doctor/hospital records, e.g. test duplication
- 3. Case management systems, e.g. reduced admissions
- 4. Patient flow softime, e.g. shortened ALOS



Improve Clinical Outcomes



- 1. Reduce drug errors, e.g. pharmacy bar coding
- 2. Reduced nursing errors, e.g. closed loop monitor systems
- 3. CPOE, e.g. less protocol variation
- 4. Reduced surgical errors, e.g. robotic surgery



Not So Futuristic Capabilities?

- 1. System-wide EMR/EHR
- 2. System-wide scheduling and access to services
- 3. Telework professional productivity, e.g. radiologists, pathologists, diagnostic interpretation
- 4. On line shopping and price feature comparison by consumers
- 5. eED, eConsults, eSecond opinions, eClinics



Self Assessment Questions

- 1. What are the principal changes occurring in the health care environment?
- 2. What are the primary challenges facing doctors and hospitals?
- 3. What are some of the strategic responses to these challenges?
- 4. What areas of health care currently utilize Automation and Technology solutions?
- 5. Where will opportunities be found for technology/automation robotics in the future?

