Mitigating the Societal Costs of Poorly Coordinated Healthcare Through Improved Electronic Health Record Communication

Eric E. Gish, D.O.
AOA Health Policy Fellowship Class 2012-2013
High Cost of Care

- 17.6% of GDP ($2.6 Trillion)
- Government pays about 40% of all healthcare costs
- Medicare Hospital Insurance Trust Fund will become exhausted between 2016 and 2024
How Much Does Fragmented Healthcare Cost?

- Insurance Inefficiencies: $20 billion
- Missed Prevention: $55 billion
- Avoidable Complications: $75 billion
- Inefficient Healthcare Delivery: $80 billion

Billions ($ U.S.)
How Much Does Fragmented Healthcare Cost?

- Drug Abuse: 181 Billion ($ U.S.)
- Excessive Ins. Admin. Costs: 190 Billion ($ U.S.)
- Unnecessary Services: 210 Billion ($ U.S.)
- Defensive Medicine***: 650 Billion ($ U.S.)
Costs Associated with a Fragmented System of Healthcare

Total Cost to Society is

> $1 Trillion

Not .01 cent improves medical outcomes....
Current Efforts to Improve Coordination (and Cost) of Care

- Office of the National Coordinator of Health Information Technology (ONC)
- Affordable Care Act
Supportive Stakeholders

- Health and Human Services Office of Information Technology
- The Office of the National Coordinator of Health Information Technology
- The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
- American Medical Group Association
- AARP
- American Osteopathic Association
- American Medical Association
- American Hospital Association
- Association of American Medical Colleges
- National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems
What’s Missing?
Centralized Communication

- Independent Physicians
- Clinical Lab Companies
- Midlevel Practitioners
- Pharmacies
- ACOs
- Insurance Companies
- Hospitals
- PTs, OTs, STs, Etc.

Centralized Communication
Policy Recommendations

• Privately Based Secure Health Information Exchange Network
  – Maintain Same HIPAA Security Standard and Information Reporting
  – Patient Health Record Security
  – Maintain Provider Decision Autonomy
Policy Recommendations

• Enhance Interoperability
  – Unified Health Information Data Set
  – Data Extraction Programs
  – Unified Platform