

Challenges of Healthcare

The title indicates there will be 150 pages book following it. Healthcare is all about challenges! I cannot describe my position in 500 words or give you advices in 1/4 of the page in the newspaper. What I can do is to initiate a discussion and a string of thoughts will become its beginning.

As a community dermatologist with a long-term community practice and research, I see these challenges every day and so does my team. Some, we can easily address during our visits, some others make our days very stressful.

*access to medical care

So many patients do not have knowledge and resources to go to a proper doctor. They delay care until they become really sick and then, it turns out they really do not have resources for treatment

*understanding of insurance plans

We see a lot of seniors whose plans can transfer from medicare to medicare substitute limiting access to their long-term doctors. This is totally counter productive and flat dangerous as continuing care should be a primary goal. I have seen so many misleading advertisements on TV, promising roses to seniors who would transfer but not telling them the rules and sacrifices. Total sales gigs like in a shoe store and not medical institution

*prices of drugs

Let me tell you, I cannot sometimes believe what I hear from my patients: \$600 for a 100 mg tube of an ointment? Our country is the only one in the world making patients sick by limiting access to drugs through pricing games in the stock market. Did you know that majority of Europe offers free drugs to seniors 75+? Yes, that is true.

*lack of continuing education among doctors and staff

Many doctors know how to write a prescription (you can find information on-line) but do not have time to listen to the patients' complaints. I have dealt with surgical nurses who did not know what biologics were. Once you get your license, you need some continuing hours



of education but you select what they are and how you learn. So often, providers and staff pick what is easy and given for a low cost, not quite keeping them on the top of medical news and science.

*poor quality of services

Staffing hospitals and medical offices is not easy. Often, you see and hear employees who are overwhelmed and unhappy and thus, they just cannot deliver what they were hired for. It seems to be almost a pattern. Well, I can tell you that being any medical provider is stressful at times but it was our calling and we knew what we signed up for. There is no excuse for a poor quality of care just because we do not like our boss.

What I listed above is just a small fraction of what we see in healthcare. We will continue that topic in the future and we invite you to a discussion and learning. Please, email us or call. We also invite you to our Anniversary Open House on Oct.20, 2018, 12:30-2:30. Our staff members will be available to answer your questions about all of the above topics. We will share snacks and drinks, and samples. I still think face-to-face communication is the best. Please, come and enjoy that afternoon with us!

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