How Can We Better Coordinate Care for III, Injured, and Disabled Workers? Douglas Benner, MD

Health and Income Security for Injured Workers: Key Policy Issues National Academy of Social Insurance October 12–13, 2006 National Press Club, Washington, DC





Reflections on What We Have Heard

...What did you hear? ...What I heard?



How Can We Better Coordinate Care for III, Injured, and Disabled Workers?

- Do not forget to treat the "whole person"
- Do not forget to avoid unwarranted medicalization
- Do not forget how that person fits in the big picture, humans are capital
- Do not forget to make sure incentives are aligned appropriately



Do not forget to treat the "whole person"

"It is much more important to know what sort of a patient has a disease than what sort of a disease a patient has."

"The good physician treats the disease; the great physician treats the patient who has the disease"

William Osler (Canadian Physician 1849-1919)



Do not forget to avoid unwarranted medicalization

"How does a person with a problem become a patient with an illness?"

Nortin Hadler, M.D, (Univ. North Carolina)

"The young physician starts life with 20 drugs for each disease, and the old physician ends life with one drug for 20 diseases."

<u>William Osler</u> (Canadian Physician 1849-1919)



Do not forget to avoid unwarranted medicalization

- We must know what we are treating: acute injury or chronic diseases?
- We must know how to treat, and we must know when to STOP
- Some things and patients can not be FIXED
- We must keep focused on the individual's personal functional restoration
- If "something" does not help, why do "more"?

Remember Humans are Capital... the Most Important Capital in Industry

We bring our: **Skills Motivation** Health and we exchange them for: Wages **Opportunities** Rewards



Remember Humans are Capital... the Most Important Capital in Industry

- We must continue develop skills and match them to the right jobs
- We must keep motivated and be motivated
- We must optimize our health and maintain and improve health of our workforce



Do not forget to make sure incentives are aligned appropriately

- Physicians view patients and treatments through their own perspective (experience/ training)
 - Providers do what "they do" and what "they know"
- Providers do what gets paid
- More care sought and more utilization happens when someone else pays...good and bad ???

