

Health Affairs

At the intersection of health, health care, and policy

Call for Papers

Theme issue: *Why Quality [in health care] is Everyone's Issue*, April 2011

Papers due: Monday, January 3, 2011

Health Affairs will publish a theme issue on health care quality in April 2011. As always, our aim is to bring together the best current thinking on a range of topics and to highlight important trends, developments, and controversies (see priority topic list below). We particularly want to surface key issues or proposals for consideration by policy makers at the state, federal, organizational or industry level.

Papers should be submitted to *Health Affairs* by January 3, 2011 at <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/ha>.

Papers will be considered for inclusion in the theme issue as well as in subsequent issues of the journal later in 2011.

Background

We expect to explore many facets of the topic, starting with a review of developments in the field over the last decade since the publication of the IOM reports, *To Err is Human* and *Crossing the Quality Chasm*. Quality is obviously a wide-ranging topic, encompassing many sectors of the health care system, including ambulatory care, hospital and long term-care settings, medical education, pharmaceuticals, the art and science of measurement, and consumer engagement. We hope to include papers that both illuminate past developments and feature new understanding on how to move the quality agenda forward and its place in the ongoing national dialogue about health care systems, health care reform, health policy, personal health, and public health.

The thematic issue and related activities are generously supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Timetable

The journal welcomes original papers, analyses, and commentaries for the thematic issue **by January 3, 2011**. *Health Affairs* editors and the theme issue advisors will evaluate submissions and make initial selections of those that warrant further consideration through the peer review process*. Following that process, authors of papers that are determined to be appropriate will be asked to **revise their papers in January and February**. Copyediting and production for the issue will take place following that, with **publication scheduled for early-April 2011**. We will draw on the

accepted papers for inclusion in the theme issue and other issues of the journal throughout 2011.

Considering the short timeline, we do not expect all authors to initiate or submit new research, but encourage synthesizing existing work to frame the issues and inform policy discussions and deliberations for an audience that is not expert on the topic.

[* Please note that we will not be able to accept all submissions. Submissions will be subjected initially to the scrutiny of editors and an expert advisor, and, for those selected, at least two outside experts. These evaluations will factor into our decision making.]

Submissions requirements

Manuscripts should be submitted via *Health Affairs* manuscript submission system at <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/ha>

Submissions should be between 3500 and 5000 words (this count includes a 100-word abstract and all endnotes/references) and may include up to 4 exhibits (tables, figures, diagrams). Papers should be original submissions not previously published or being considered by other journals. Details on format and endnotes are available on the *Health Affairs* website under “Help for Authors” (http://www.healthaffairs.org/1410_for_authors.php).

Please mention the theme issue in your cover letter and in the submission forms.

Authors who are uncertain of the appropriateness of their work for the issue may informally send an abstract to *Health Affairs* deputy editor, Sarah Dine, at sdine@projecthope.org. Other Questions may be directed to Ms. Dine or executive editor Don Metz at dmetz@projecthope.org.

Topics

As it now stands, we are seeking submissions on the following topics:

- The history of safety and quality initiatives in the US health care, with a special focus on what has happened since publication of the IOM Reports on errors and quality in 1999 and 2000;
- The art and science of measures of quality (process and outcomes);
- The challenges of designing appropriate measures for a range of activities and institutions, including but not limited to hospitals, ambulatory care, health systems, and diagnostic tests;
- Innovative models and case studies of organizations that have attempted and achieved quality-improvement objectives;

- Analyses of current pay for performance programs and other QI initiatives, especially in the context of delivery system innovations to be carried out under the terms of the Affordable Care Act;
- Discussions of what quality means to patients and consumers;
- Commentaries on achievements to date in the quality realm and the challenges ahead.

We also welcome submissions on other topics that are key to ongoing debates regarding health care quality.

About Health Affairs

Health Affairs, published by Project HOPE, is the leading journal of health policy. The peer-reviewed journal appears each month in print and online, with additional Web First papers published weekly at www.healthaffairs.org. You can also find the journal on Facebook and Twitter.