

“Trends in Senior Health Care”



California Partnership for
Access to Treatment

Co-hosted by:

UC Davis Center for Healthy Aging
Alzheimer's Association, California Council

The Future is Now

Health Care Trends
and
What They May Mean to Us

The Aging of Society

Life Expectancy

At Birth		At Mid Life	
1900	47		
1950	68	At 65	83
2000	77	At 75	87

We used to die before we age,
now we AGE before we die.



Implications

- ❑ Geriatric Health Care
- ❑ Chronic Illnesses
- ❑ “Inevitable” Illnesses
- ❑ Mobility and Service Industries



The Aging of the Baby Boomers

- ❑ Sheer Numbers – 77 Million
- ❑ Sheer Dollars - ????
- ❑ Inevitable Change



Implications

- The Cosmetic Revolution
- Health as Pastime, Health Care as Recreation
- Changing Societal Institutions

The Revolution of Rising Expectations

- Diseases can be eliminated – not just treated.

Polio

Small Pox

MMR

- Research produces Miracles

Transplants and Artificial

Wonder Drugs

Bionics

Implications

- Aging as “disease” rather than life process.
- More resources should always produce more results.
- Every problem has an solution.

The Triumph of Science – and its Cost

- DNA Unveiled
- Genome Mapped
- Technology always evolving
- Regeneration – just around the corner
- Health Care Spending Going UP UP UP

Impliations

- ❑ Patient-specific Therapy
- ❑ Medical Necessity as an ever-moving Target
- ❑ Health Care as Recreation
- ❑ Health Care Policy ever more about Ethics as well as Access

The Uncertain Role of Self-Responsibility

- Now know for certain that an ounce of prevention is worth a ton of cure.
- Medicine has shifted from primary focus on critical care to multi-focus on prevention, intervention, and disease management

Implications

- Unsure how much responsibility is worth.
 - Shared cost
 - Future investment
 - Lifestyle penalties
 - Legislation
 - Litigation

The Changing Role of the Doctor-Patient Relationship

- ❑ Growing number of non-physician providers
- ❑ Diminishing reliance upon doctors as the sole source of health care information
- ❑ Tendency to treat all clinicians as advisors rather than lawgivers
- ❑ Impact of the internet

Implications

- ❑ “Do-it-yourselfism”
- ❑ Increased need for patient education and reliable information
- ❑ Extraordinary opportunity for spread of misinformation
- ❑ The New Health Literacy



The Politics of Medicine

- ❑ This disaffection of younger adults
- ❑ The Rancor of Public Policy Debate
- ❑ The Increasing Complexity of Health Issues
- ❑ The Need for New Public Policy Models



Implications

- ❑ The Increasing Importance/Cost of Advocacy
- ❑ The Importance of Branding
- ❑ The Internet/IPOD as Aorta



The Shadows in the Dark

- ❑ The Burgeoning Need for Long Term Care
- ❑ The Growing Number of Uninsured
- ❑ The Aging of an Illegal Workforce



The X Factors

- Terrorism
- Natural Disasters
- Pandemics



The Kobayashi Maru

- ❑ Redefining the Parameters
- ❑ Creating new Scenarios
- ❑ Reprogramming for New Success

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