



Toward Evidence-Based Health Care Reform

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Important PBS Health Series to Air in January on Vermont Public Television

Welcome to "Toward Evidence-Based Health Care Reform," a periodic e-memo providing facts, figures, examples and analysis of current issues in health care reform in Vermont. The memo is written by Jeanne Keller, Keller & Fuller, Inc., and sponsored by BRS, Inc., a member organization providing a range of services and support to Vermont's small businesses. For more about BRS, please visit our website: www.brsvt.com

To review past issues of Toward Evidence-Based Health Care Reform, www.vtreform.com.

To read and download the comprehensive health care reform proposal supported by BRS and several other Vermont business associations, www.vtiha.org.

Vermont Public Television will be airing a critically acclaimed 4-part series on national efforts to re-engineer health care in America, on consecutive Thursdays in January from 9-10 pm.

The series, "**Remaking American Medicine: Health Care in the 21st Century**" focuses on **real** health care reform: eliminating errors and infections, and providing better management of chronic illness.

On Tuesday, Jan 23rd from 8-9PM, VPT will produce a live, local panel discussion, with viewer call-in and clips from the series. Discussion will focus on medical errors, chronic diseases and what Vermont is doing to address these issues.

Here is the schedule and a brief description of each program in the series.

Remaking American Medicine
Thursdays in January, **9 – 10 PM**

Thursday, January 4: Program One: "Silent Killer"

Every year at least 98,000 Americans are killed – and countless more are injured – as a result of **medical errors**. This program begins by profiling the efforts of Sorrel King, whose 18-month-old daughter died at one of the most respected hospitals in the world, Johns Hopkins. King has gone from grieving victim to engaged activist, partnering with Johns Hopkins to make safety a top priority at the institution. Now she has joined forces with Dr. Donald Berwick, a nationally recognized patient safety advocate, to save 100,000 lives in American hospitals.

Thursday, January 11, Program Two: "First Do No Harm"

This program focuses on the impact of **hospital-acquired infections and medical errors** in two institutions, and follows the efforts of physicians who are challenging their colleagues to live up to their oath to "First Do No Harm." In Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Chief of Medicine Dr. Richard Shannon is confronting an epidemic of

hospital-acquired infections that are shattering the lives of their victims. Hackensack University Medical Center in New Jersey is engaged in an effort to completely transform the way the institution delivers care. The goal in both hospitals is to ensure that the people trusted to provide safe and effective medical treatment do not harm patients.

Thursday, January 18, Program Three: "The Stealth Epidemic"

Chronic diseases, like diabetes and congestive heart failure, affect nearly 100 million Americans, and treatment of these illnesses consumes nearly 70 percent of all health care resources. Yet doctors are often unable to prevent needless suffering or even death, and these failures are threatening the viability of our entire health care system. This program looks at groundbreaking efforts in two very different communities – Los Angeles and Whatcom County in the state of Washington – that are fundamentally transforming the physician-patient relationship ... and offer a glimmer of hope for patients across the country who are struggling with their chronic conditions.

Thursday, January 25, Program Four: "Hand in Hand"

As medicine continues to become more and more technologically sophisticated and the systems that deliver medical care become more complex, **the relationship between providers and patients and their families** is more important than ever. This final program tells the story of patients and families who have formed a unique bond in a teaching hospital in Augusta, Georgia to transform the institution into a nationally recognized facility, where partnership is a guiding vision to the care it delivers.

Tuesday, January 23, 8 – 9 PM VPT's Public Square

LIVE local panel discussion with viewer call-in and clips from the series. Discussion will focus on medical errors, chronic diseases and what Vermont is doing to address these issues.