



2011–2012 Seminar Series

If You Build It, Will They Come? Physician Use of Health IT to Access Patient Data from Other Sources

In promoting the adoption of electronic health records (EHRs) and health information exchange, policy makers assume that if physicians have easier access to patient data for sources outside their practice, they will use the data to improve clinical decision making. Further, policy makers have ambitious goals for “secondary” data use, including for population management and quality measurement to support care delivery and payment reforms. This presentation will explore the challenges physicians face in using electronic patient data, drawing on existing research. For example, policy makers are promoting the use of health IT for medication reconciliation. Recent research shows, however, that even when e-prescribers can access additional patient medication history, these data are not de-duplicated and may be difficult to import into the EHR, limiting use. More generally, research suggests that when physicians perceive the costs of accessing data exceed the benefits, they are less likely to use the information. The presentation will consider the implications of these findings for federal health IT efforts.



Joy M. Grossman, Ph.D., is Senior Health Researcher at the Center for Studying Health System Change (HSC), a nonpartisan health policy research organization in Washington, DC. Dr. Grossman is an expert in health information technology (IT) and has published qualitative and quantitative studies on a wide range of health IT topics funded by the Agency

for Healthcare Research and Quality, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and other organizations. Research topics include e-prescribing implementation and use in physician practices and pharmacies; use of ambulatory electronic health records for quality improvement and reporting and care coordination; trends in physician adoption of health IT; health insurer personal health records; stakeholder participation in local health information exchanges (HIEs); the role of HIEs in supporting quality reporting; hospital adoption of health IT including hospital-physician web portals and intensive care unit (ICU) telemedicine and hospital strategies to assist physicians in adopting EMRs.

Dr. Grossman has more than 25 years of experience in health policy and research. In addition to health IT, she has published on provider and health plan organization, market structure and competition. Before joining HSC, Dr. Grossman worked at the Prospective Payment Assessment Commission and as an investment banker arranging hospital financings. She earned her Ph.D. in economics from the University of California at Berkeley.

October 6, 2011
3:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Johnson Center 334, Room F
Light Refreshments will be provided.



The College of
Health and Human Services