

March 24, 2010

A PERSPECTIVE ON HEALTH CARE REFORM

By Kelsey-Seybold Clinic

On Tuesday, March 23, 2010, President Obama signed into law new legislation impacting the healthcare industry, H.R. 3590. Kelsey-Seybold Clinic is currently reviewing the new legislation. It is likely that H.R.3590 will undergo revision over time.

Kelsey-Seybold Clinic does not endorse any particular party or political platform. We have been active along with our colleagues in the American Medical Group Association in communicating with our elected representatives on this important matter.

The paramount consideration in this entire process is delivery of quality care. In particular, we encourage the development of systems that reward quality over quantity, and deliver value instead of volume. Based on considerable objective evidence and our own experience at Kelsey-Seybold Clinic, we believe that accountable care organizations (ACOs) deliver quality care at a total lower medical cost. There are decades of proven results with accountable care organizations (ACOs), including Kelsey-Seybold, Mayo Clinic, Kaiser Permanente, Scott & White, and Geisinger Health System.

The current legislation calls for pilot programs to further study the merits of accountable care organizations. While this is laudable, incentives are the real need. Our healthcare system would benefit from incentives so that this successful model will continue to grow. Highly credible research by the Dartmouth Atlas of Health, the Hewitt Health Value Initiative and CMS' own MedPAR data demonstrates the value of ACOs in delivering high-quality, cost-effective, coordinated care.

We are very concerned about the impact of H.R. 3590 on current Texas Medical Malpractice reform, as the federal legislation in its current form could jeopardize our state legislation. Tort reform in Texas has been in place since 2004 and has led to the successful recruitment of thousands of new doctors and specialists – with a 17 percent increase in Harris County alone. Kelsey-Seybold Clinic and our patients have benefitted from tort reform through the recruitment of highly talented new physicians and the installation of our electronic medical record, funded by savings from tort reform. Medical malpractice reform in Texas is working and must be protected.

Our community, our state and our nation must find ways to deliver high-value health care. We believe the solution lies in the accountable care model. Kelsey-Seybold has a history of success in delivering quality care and managing costs. Quality care will continue to be our focus.

To learn more about the high-quality care and value delivered by accountable care organizations (ACOs) go to:
http://www.kelsey-seybold.com/MS_Kelseycare/index.cfm

To learn more about the research findings go to:
http://www.kelsey-seybold.com/MS_Kelseycare/White_Papers.cfm

About Kelsey-Seybold Clinic

Kelsey-Seybold Clinic is Houston's premier community-based physician group, founded in 1949 by Dr. Mavis Kelsey in Houston's famous Texas Medical Center. More than 350 Kelsey-Seybold physicians practice at 19 locations in the greater Houston area. Medical services offered by Kelsey-Seybold include outpatient medical care in more than 50 medical specialties, outpatient surgery centers, nationally accredited Breast Diagnostic Centers and Cancer Centers, advanced radiology services, onsite and online Kelsey Pharmacy services and secure communication portals for patients to communicate with their health care team. Kelsey-Seybold has proudly served the National Aeronautics and Space Administration since 1966 and today provides medical services onsite at the Johnson Space Center, the White Sands Test Facility in New Mexico, and in Moscow. To follow Kelsey-Seybold on Twitter, visit <http://twitter.com/kelseyseibold>. To follow Kelsey-Seybold on Facebook, visit <http://www.facebook.com/KelseySeyboldClinic>. For more information about Kelsey Seybold Clinic, visit www.kelsey-seybold.com.

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