Access to Health Services: Multiple Perspectives

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“Iron Triangle of Health Policy”

Access to Care

Cost Containment  Quality of Care
Access to Care definition

“timely use of personal health services to achieve the best health outcome”

- Timeliness of services
- Quality of Care

Access to Health Care in America, IOM, 1993
Why Is Access so Important?

For Individuals: Right care, Right Place, Right ??

For our Society: Essential for a strong society

- Quality of Care
- Everyone
- Health Equity
How Does One Access Care?

- Find a health care provider you trust
- Gain entry into the health system
- Access a health care location where needed services are provided
When you get access . . . .

- Assess your physical, social and mental health status
- Prevent disease, disability and even mortality
- Assess your quality of life and lifestyle
- Improve life expectancy
When you don’t get access . . .

- Unmet health needs
- Delays in receiving appropriate care
- Creates health disparities
- Reduces quality of health care
- Potentially preventable hospitalizations
What are some barriers to care?

- Health insurance coverage
  - Exclusions in insurance
  - Preexisting conditions
  - Affordable Care Act
- Acceptability of health insurance
  - Low reimbursement
  - Out of network due to cost or quality
What are some barriers to care?

• Availability of health facilities
  • Location and design of facilities
  • Transportation

• Availability of health providers

• Patient factors
  • Patient’s mobility
  • Language and culture
  • Cultural and linguistically appropriate standards (CLAS)
  • Health literacy
Four Components of Access to Care in HP 2020

- Health insurance coverage
- Health services
- Timeliness
- Workforce