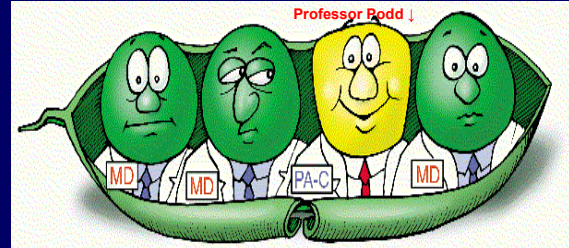


## The Physician Assistant Profession During The Next Decade

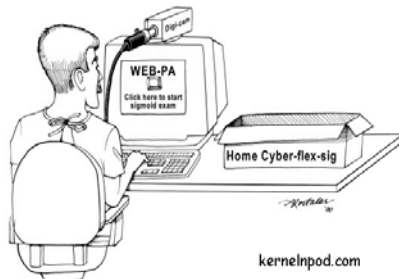
- Dominic Agresta
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Group # 1

## 3 PEAS AND A PROFESSOR PODD



<http://www.kernelnpod.com/>



WHEN CYBER-MEDICINE HAS GONE TOO FAR

## Managed Care

- Health Care program designed to ensure that patients receive the **highest quality medical care for the lowest cost, in the most appropriate setting.**
- Managed Care programs are based on pre- paid membership instead of fee- for- fee service payment each time service is delivered.

## 3 Basic Types of Managed Care Health Insurance Plans

- Health Maintenance Organization's
  - HMOs
- Preferred Provider Organization's
  - PPOs
- Point of Service Plans
  - POSs

## Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs)

- Managed healthcare system that reduces healthcare costs by focusing on preventative care.
- HMOs provide medical treatment on a pre- paid basis so members pay a fixed monthly fee, regardless of how much medical care is needed in a given month.
- HMOs medical treatment provides a variety of medical services including office visits, hospitalization, and surgery.
- The size of the network varies depending on the individual HMO.

## Advantages and Disadvantages of HMOs

- **ADVANTAGES:**
- Low out-of-pocket costs
- Focus on wellness and preventative care
- No lifetime maximum payout
- **DISADVANTAGES:**
- Specific controls can make it more difficult to get specialized care
- Care from **NON-HMO** providers is generally **NOT** covered

## Preferred Provider Organizations (PPOs)

- Networks of doctors/ hospitals that provides medical service only to **specific** groups or associations.
- Organizations, employers, and insurance companies that sponsor PPOs increase patient volume by creating incentives to use the physicians and facilities within the PPO network.
- In return, the sponsors are provided discounted medical services and control programs to help reduce the cost of medical care.
- PPO members pay for services that are prenegotiated by the healthcare providers and the PPO sponsors.

## Advantages and Disadvantages of PPOs

- **ADVANTAGES:**
- Free choice of healthcare provider
- Out-of-pocket costs generally limited
- **DISADVANTAGES:**
- Less coverage for treatment provided by **NON-PPO** Physicians
- More paperwork and expenses than HMOs

## Point of Service Plan (POS)

- Managed healthcare system that resembles both HMOs and PPOs.
- Similarly to HMOs, patients with a POS plan pay no deductible and a minimal co-payment when they use a healthcare provider within their network. Patients must also choose a primary care physician who will be responsible for all referrals within the POS network.
- If the patient chooses to go outside the network for healthcare however, the POS plan switches to act more like a PPO rather than HMO.
- Patients become subject to a deductible and their co-payment becomes a substantial percentage of the physician's charges.

## Advantages and Disadvantages of POSs

- **ADVANTAGES:**
- Maximum freedom
- Minimal co-payment
  - No deductible
- No "Gatekeeper" for non-network care
- Out-of-pocket costs limited
- **DISADVANTAGES:**
- Substantial co-payment for non-network care
- Deductible for non-network care
- Tight controls to get specialized care

## What Does Managed Care Dominance Mean For The PA Profession?

- Increase in opportunities for Physician Assistants
- Increase in the rights and responsibilities for PAs
  - MCOs – cheaper
  - Doctors- more reliant on PAs
  - PAs through organizations like NYSSPA

## PA Job Opportunities

- Jobs occupied by PAs are higher than the total number of PAs.
- Many PAs hold two or more jobs: hospitals, out-patient centers, HMOs, Fed. Gov't, universities, professional schools, clinics, etc.
- Increased need for PAs in underserved areas (rural & inner city).

## PA Statistics

- PA is a rapidly growing profession:
  - 20<sup>th</sup> fastest in 1997
  - 12<sup>th</sup> fastest in 2001
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> fastest in 2004
- 2002 – 2010 jobs for PAs expected to increase 49%, yet total US employment expected to increase only 15%.

## PA Statistics cont.

- 2002 – 63,000 jobs vs. expected 94,000 in 2012.
- AAPA predicts 50,121 PAs currently in clinical practice.
- 2002 – 183 million patient visits to PAs.
- 2003 – 192 million patient visits to PAs.

## What do these Statistics Mean?

- Illustrate how PAs are becoming more recognized & desirable.
- About 43 million Americans do not have health insurance: therefore, serious need for low-cost & efficient treatment.
- PAs promote time management & convenience; able to run clinics if Physician not present while providing equal level of patient care.

## How Aging of America Will Affect Practitioners

- In America today 27% of 80 million people are aged 50 or older. As the nation ages, about 76 million baby-boomers will be turning 65 in 2011, and the percentage of people who will be 50 or older will rise to 35%. (Pitt, 2005)
- Dr. Alan Kronhaus, founder of Doctors Making Housecalls, said that about 80% of patients in his program are seniors.
- According to the Journal of the American Medical Association, house calls to Medicare beneficiaries rose by 40% from 1998 to 2004. Krishnan, Ohio, 2006

## How Aging of America Will Affect Practitioners cont:

- Demand for house calls on the rise and physician's loss of interest in the **geriatrics** field, house calls will be more difficult to provide.
- It is expected that other healthcare practitioners, including Physician Assistants will help make house calls more available to the elderly.

## How Aging of America Will Affect Practitioners cont:

- Technology
- Early detection
- Promote the prevention of illnesses
- Patients will still require additional care

## Methods to Improve PA Programs

- Diversity & Cultural Awareness
- Program Evaluations
- Medical Equipment
- Local Conferences
- Geriatric Education Days

## Methods to Improve PA Programs cont:

- PA Organizations
- Arranging Informational Sessions
- Lobbying
- Expanding PA Professions around the world
- Community Service

Those of us in the Allied Health Profession know that *humor* is the **best medicine**, so here is a great medical joke to help you through your day! ☺

A doctor and his wife were having a big argument at breakfast. "You aren't so good in bed either!" he shouted and stormed off to work. By midmorning, he decided he'd better make amends and phoned home. After many rings, his wife picked up the phone.

"What took you so long to answer?" the doctor asked.

"I was in bed," his wife replied.

"What were you doing in bed this late?" he asked.

His wife replied, "Getting a second opinion from the Physician Assistant."

[http://www.angelfire.com/md3/medical\\_humor/](http://www.angelfire.com/md3/medical_humor/)

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