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In UW Medicine's journey to provide the highest value care, the role of clinicians is more important than ever. To help clinicians be better stewards of their resources, we have developed new tools to help bring transparency to the cost of our drugs, supplies and procedures. We are also developing programs to help shine a light on technology that adds value and creates a pathway for industry partners to develop the evidence we need to assess the value of innovative products. Improving cost transparency of supplies, medications and new technology is a high priority in our effort to standardize care and reduce unnecessary costs. Many of you are working on strategies to improve cost transparency and develop processes to ensure new technologies, drugs and tests are assessed for their value before being broadly adopted. Thank you for your vision and commitment to high-value care.

Carlos A. Pellegrini, MD, FACS
Chief Medical Officer, UW Medicine and
VP for Medical Affairs

Care Transformation Updates

Cost Transparency

Despite the significant contribution of surgical spending to healthcare costs, most surgeons are unaware of their operating room costs. To change this, the UW Medicine Supply Chain Value Analysis Team is partnering with the Surgical Services leadership at UWMC to develop and pilot a Surgical Supply Cost and Utilization report referred to as the Hotel Bill. This report breaks down the supply and implant costs associated with each surgical procedure and allows each surgeon and their team to be a part of the decision making process for what supplies are used, their costs and what alternatives might be available. The Hotel Bill will be piloted at UWMC this summer.

Smart Innovation

Healthcare decision making requires the right evidence at the right time. Everyday there are new medical technologies available that can improve patient outcomes and refine health system efficiency. Health Technology Assessment (HTA) is a tool to review technologies and provide evidence of the value these technologies can deliver to patients and their families and to health systems like ours. Building off the success of UW Medicine's Value Analysis program, we are introducing an evidenced-based approach to evaluating new medical technologies. Led by clinicians in partnership with Value Analysis and technology assessment experts, Smart Innovation provides a standardized and consistent path for assessment to ensure that medical technologies and products add value to patient care and are responsive to the needs of UW Medicine clinicians. We look forward to seeing improved efficiency and lower costs as a result of this evidence-based approach to technology evaluation and acceptance.