

Faculty of Design

Reevaluating the value of Primary Care using Design Thinking

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REEVALUATING THE VALUE OF PRIMARY CARE USING DESIGN THINKING



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Primary Care in the United States is at a **critical crossroads**.

The health care system is shifting from **Fee for Service** to **Total Cost of Care**

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paid for sick care | paid for health

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paid for sick care

measured on volumes

paid for health

measured on outcomes and patient experience

The health care system is shifting from **Fee for Service** to **Total Cost of Care**

paid for sick care

measured on volumes

difficult to bill for non-physician services

paid for health

measured on outcomes and patient experience

embraces team models

Moving from a system that was **never designed** to one that is more **thoughtful** presents us with a **unique opportunity**.

The new system must: attract and retain patients

The new system must: attract and retain patients provide high value care

The new system must: attract and retain patients provide high value care have highly satisfying services

The new system must: attract and retain patients provide high value care have highly satisfying services better meet consumer needs

We must design to optimize: coordinated care

We must design to optimize: coordinated care management of populations

We must design to optimize: coordinated care management of populations management of chronic conditions

This shift is **not simple**.

We can't just keep things as they are.

28% of patients could list their medications
37% could state the purpose of their medication
14% could state common side effects
42% could state their diagnosis
50% of all prescriptions went unfilled
50% of filled prescriptions were taken improperly

REASONS FOR NOT SEEKING CARE





The current healthcare system is in the business of **doing things to patients.**

(in fact, it overtly rewards providers for this)

The health care system cannot respond to the needs of the patient without **talking to them first**.

Consumers define health not as the absence of disease but as the **ability to function in their daily lives**.

Consumers are looking for services that **support their health** rather than systems that rid them of disease. We developed a system that helped patients get what they needed, when they needed it, how they wanted it.







COMPLEXITY HIGH TO LOW

Sharing care responsibilities across the team means:

- Increasing nurse-only visits
- Improving the integration of allied staff members providing specialized services.
- Daily communication and coordination of patient care across the team.
- Increasing non-visit care options.



How is this Different from Previous Care Team Models?

We are not simply emphasizing physician efficiency and maximizing individual physician productivity.

The Optimized Care Team:

- Establishes how each member of the team can add the most value to direct patient care.
- Emphasizes the delegation of care across disciplines.
- Diversifies the relationships patient's have with their clinic.
- Diversifies the access points patients have with their clinic.

7 weeks of experimentation1300 patients seen



"I'd rather come in for one very thorough 45min appointment where I see the whole team, than come back 3 times in 3 months."

"Seeing the pharmacist was great. I pick up the meds for the family and I got to ask questions I otherwise would have forgotten."

"I liked that everyone seemed to know about me."

Did your care providers know your story and reason for visit?



Visit Satisfaction Comparison



Capacity Gained Actual Recorded vs. Potential



Inbox Data: Pilot vs. Pre-pilot



It worked.

It worked. Everyone agreed it was better.

It worked. Everyone agreed it was better. So why isn't it operationalized?

Culture Physician Attitudes

Culture

Physician Attitudes Allied Health Staff Confidence

Culture Tools Culture Tools Compensation



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