

## Research Assessment #7

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Subject: CEOs lists of key healthcare issues

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Assessment: Research

There are so many topics, concepts, and concerns that come across a hospital CEO's desk every day and the list keeps changing as healthcare changes and adapts to globalization and change. This article provides a snapshot of the main concerns that CEOs in healthcare deal with and the priority of each one. While this article is a little dated, being written in 2005, it provided me with a basis from which I can track change as I observe a modern healthcare administration environment with my mentor.

One big trend that was observed through the annual interviews with CEOs was the rising importance of quality. Ellie often refers to quality and best practices when she and her team work on big projects for the hospital system but I didn't know that this quality-centered train of thought it relatively modern development. Many healthcare consultants nowadays are focused on developing the quality of care in a facility because, oftentimes, the quality is the root of many problems within the system. Processes like Six Sigma, which is a set of management techniques intended to improve business processes by greatly reducing the probability that an error or defect will occur, have risen to help hospitals and similar healthcare facilities evolve with the changes that are occurring in the rest of the world.

Another large issue that administrators expressed was a lack of staffing in positions such as nurses, pharmacists, imaging technicians, therapists, and surgeons. However, there was an upward trend of an increase in numbers of medical students entering the workforce in the period in which this article was written. As the healthcare environment has improved and the lives of physicians and nurses have become more palatable, more people have begun to enter into the career field. Especially in the world of cardiovascular surgery, working conditions for surgeons and medical students have improved drastically just in the past 10 years. What used to be 80+ hour weeks plus on call time has become much more manageable for adults looking to experience more in

life or even start families in their years of residency and fellowship. Additionally, an increase in mean salary for nurses has resulted in an surge in people pursuing bachelor nursing degrees and entering the workforce.

Additionally, the article mentioned a large problem with finance in regards to the hospitals with debt, Medicare, and Medicaid. This is where my knowledge becomes a little fuzzy, but I hope to fix that problem in the upcoming weeks as I do more research on the complex animal that is Medicare and Medicaid. There is so much controversy surrounding the social service and I have often encountered many hospital administrators that really dislike the “government hands” messing with their care. Furthermore, it was mentioned in the article that “one-quarter of U.S. hospitals finished 2004 in the red compared with 30% in previous years.” With how the field of healthcare seems in the United States and all of the innovations that seem to be continuously happening, I was surprised to read that there are lots of financial problems that also plague the field. This is also where I have some confusion because I am not entirely sure where all the money involved in healthcare goes and comes from (this is where an economics degree paired with a healthcare degree would be beneficial).

As I delve into the more government-related topics that surround healthcare administration and even the clinical side, I will need to continue to do lots of research because I have little to no prior knowledge surrounding the federal workings of this nation’s health.