

Haxtun to Holyoke: Chronic Care in a Rural Critical Access Hospital

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Rural Medicine is Critical Medicine

More than 10% of Phillips County lives below the poverty line, and up to 21% do not have internet access at home. These patients receive care from more than five different health systems. How can we make access to medications and records possible for all parties to best serve our patients?

The model developed at Haxtun Hospital District was deployed at the Family Practice of Holyoke. The hospitals serve similar populations. A drug sample closet was established, as well as a paper chronic care handout to hold patient records and education across various healthcare encounters.

How do we make medications affordable, especially when waiting for prior authorizations?

How do we help patients access medical information without digital standardization?

We can use pharmaceutical samples to lower costs for individual patients, but there is no clear, ethical consensus on a systems level for drug samples.

A paper handbook that patients take with them to all healthcare encounters allows patients without internet, or those seen in multiple systems, to easily access information and ensure providers have up to date data.

Literature cited

US Census Bureau. (n.d.). U.S. census bureau QUICKFACTS: PHILLIPS County, Colorado. Retrieved February 19, 2021, from <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/phillipscountycolorado/INT100219#INT100219>

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Further information

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