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Call for Papers

M&SOM Special Issue: Applications of Health-Care Operations Management

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Over the last 20 or so years, as health-care costs have been rising rapidly, increased attention from the mainstream media, policy makers, and the general public has been focused on the health-care sector in the United States, Canada, and around the world. Over the same period of time, researchers from a wide variety of disciplines have begun to develop tools and insights to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the health-care delivery process. Executives and senior administrators in hospitals and other health services organizations have become more receptive to applying ideas and concepts from operations management; in fact, many of these individuals now have MBA degrees.

Health-care expenditures in the United States were approximately \$253 billion in 1980, \$714 billion in 1990, and surpassed \$2.3 trillion in 2008. In 2008, health-care spending in the United States amounted to 16.2% of the gross domestic product, and it keeps growing.

In addition to cost containment, trying to improve service quality, reduce errors, and match supply and demand in the health-care sector can be challenging. Demand for medical services can vary, often in unpredictable ways, but the supply (i.e., care capacity) is mostly inflexible in the short run. For example, the number of physicians, hospital beds, and operating rooms has not increased much over the last 20 years.

The goal of this special issue is to highlight and consolidate the contributions that operations management methodologies can provide for the health-care sector. We seek to publish high quality, original manuscripts that rigorously apply cutting-edge ideas to novel and challenging problems in the planning and delivery of health care in various contexts including hospitals, clinics, medical practices, etc. It is our hope that these papers will enhance our understanding of the key issues underlying the delivery of effective care in this rapidly changing environment. We welcome both analytical and empirical papers on any health-care operations management topic, ranging from pandemics management to infection control within a hospital or community, clinical supply chain strategies, quality and variability management, telemedicine, the scheduling of surgeries within a hospital, capacity planning for community clinics, patient and staff scheduling, task prioritization in the emergency department, etc. We encourage authors from both within and outside of North America to submit their best work.

All submissions must adhere to the format, style, and other established guidelines for regular M&SOM submissions. Manuscripts must be submitted by March 28, 2011, via the Internet, and authors must complete the submission process on the Manuscript Central website: <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/msom>. Authors should mention that the paper is being submitted for the special issue in a cover letter to the M&SOM editor. In addition, authors should note that in submitting a manuscript to be reviewed for this special issue, they should expect to serve as reviewers for other manuscripts. We expect the special issue to appear in mid-2012.