

Editorial Preface

Letter From the Editor-in-Chief

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The Oxford English Dictionary defines the word “standard” as “1. A level of quality or attainment” or “2. An idea or things used as a measure, norm, or model in comparative evaluations.” The practical application of standards probably started with units of measurement of weights and distances. In the more modern world, mass production required exacting standards for manufacturing tools and their use to attain uniformly high quality of the goods produced. Spurred by these rapidly evolving technologies, the last century has witnessed the development of international organizations dedicated to promoting uniform standards to ensure quality of a multitude of products, from lightbulbs to automobiles. The International Standards Organization (ISO) is the most widely known, by both the firms who seek approval of their performance practices and by the consumer sector. In the USA, The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) performs a similar function; but neither organization has provided an exclusive focus towards the development and maintenance of healthcare quality standards. It is for this specific purpose that the Healthcare Standards Institute (HSI) has been founded, under the leadership of Dr. Veronica Edwards.

While certain components of healthcare relate directly to manufactured goods, a far greater need exists to evaluate the process of delivery of healthcare, in order to improve its efficiency, accuracy in diagnosis and treatment, hygienic practices, and the somewhat more difficult to quantitate area of patient satisfaction. The COVID pandemic brought an unprecedented, urgent need to remodel areas of healthcare to expedite emergency diagnosis and treatment to large numbers of patients, mass sanitation and infection control procedures. Almost overnight, a new means to deliver care to patients through telecommunication became the dominant venue.

These seismic shifts provided both the need and opportunity to comprehensively reassess existing methodologies. It is in this cauldron of change that the HSI seeks to provide meaningful, fresh insights and assessments in a multitude of healthcare settings that will hopefully reinvigorate these systems. The HSI journal, for which I am Editor-in-Chief, will serve as an open forum for manuscript submissions that will address diverse healthcare performance and quality issues. It will also serve as an avenue for constructive commentary and invited dialog to accelerate the implementation and enhancement of the complex healthcare delivery system. It is in this collaborative spirit that I welcome all of you to our inaugural issue.

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Sharon Kleeefield
Editor-in-Chief
JHMS