Health Services Research - Attempts to understand reasons for _______ in medical practice and determine what _______ lead to _______.

So it studies the 3 E's: _______ , _______ , _______ .

Small Area Analysis
- Large variations in practice style by geographical area
- More variation when there is uncertainty in efficacy of treatments
- Sometimes more than one therapy may be appropriate
- Doctors may adjust behavior when informed of other doctors’ practice patterns

Medical conditions where there are large variations:

- __________
- __________
- __________
- __________

In many cases doctors are unaware that their method of treatment is unusual, will change when presented with evidence that they’re deviating from the norm.

If you build it, they will come...

Availability of services leads to more use of these services:
- More back surgeons, more back surgeries
- More hospital beds, more hospitalizations
- More hospital beds, more patients die in hospital rather than at home
Outcomes research - examines

____________________________________________

____________________________________________

Collects and analyzes data to reach conclusions on

of various interventions

**Pneumonia**

Studied the outcomes of patients with pneumonia, developed way for clinicians to determine which patients can be treated safely at home, because most people

& ________________________________________
**Prostate-specific antigen (PSA) test - prostate cancer screening**

High PSA level can indicate cancer is present, but there are other reasons for high PSA levels. A man could get a high PSA result and NOT have prostate cancer.

More invasive tests - prostate biopsy may cause

_________________________

Prostate surgery may cause

_________________________

Gold standard test is digital rectal examination (DRE)
**Pap test** – cervical cancer screening

11/2009 New ACOG (American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists) Recommendations:

1. Women should get their 1st pap test by _________
2. Women in 20s with normal pap test results can get screenings every 2 years instead of every year
3. Women in their 30s can wait 3 years between screenings.

HPV is a _______________________________

It’s the most _______________________ STI

~90% of HPV infections _________________

Unnecessary HPV treatment can _________________________________
therefore it could lead to pre-term birth
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)

- Mandated by Congress to develop guidelines for treatment, 1989
- When the agency recommended less back surgery (1994), political pressure from back surgeons almost forced elimination of agency
- Now agency has recovered and budget has grown

AHRQ goals are to:

- ______________________
- ______________________
- ______________________

Medical Errors

- Institute of Medicine report, 1999
  - Errors cause 44,000 to 98,000 deaths per year
- The system
- Recommendations
  - Reporting
  - Checklists
  - Computerized prescriptions

Institute of Medicine report - *To Err is Human, 1999*

A number of studies showed documented, preventable medical errors occurred in _____% of hospitalizations, many caused patient’s death

Shifted blame from individual health care providers to ______________________

Recommendations for errors:

Prescription Errors

- Important medication concerns:
  - Can I take this medication with 1) alcohol, 2) food, 3) herbal remedies, or 4) over the counter meds?
  - When is the best time to take a medication?
  - Should I drive or operate heavy machinery...maybe even re-consider taking an online test at that time too!
  - Poly-pharmacy issues
Medical Care Report Cards

- Why is this important?
- What do people do with the information?
- Most healthcare plans have improved over the years
- Data on quality is available on
  - Managed Care plans
  - Coronary Artery surgeons in NY state
  - And effective treatment for heart attack patients

Inequities in Medical Care

- Medical care is rationed
- Racial inequities in care
- Blacks and Hispanics receive poorer treatment for many conditions
  - Institute of Medicine report
    - Bias, prejudice, stereotyping
    - Geographical differences

Blacks and Hispanics receive poorer treatment for many conditions:

- Less likely to be recommended for __________________________
- Childhood asthma – less likely to be given ____________________
  for effective medications and need _________________________
- African Americans have the highest death rates for _____________
- Minorities are less likely to receive __________________________
International comparisons show health is proportional to wealth ________

RAND Health Insurance Experiment

- For people with generous insurance, many health care services may be wasted
- It was found that only for ________ did free medical care make a difference, that’s because they are the ones who lack access to medical care because of financial reasons.