

QUALITY CONFERENCE: OUR COLLECTIVE MINDSET FOR HIGH VALUE CARE

THE FUTURE OF HEALTHCARE: POPULATION BASED FOR HIGHER VALUE

Professor Sir Muir Gray, director of the value based healthcare programme, University of Oxford

This session focused on how the conversation around health care needs to move from a question of "quality" to a question of "value"

Health has gone through two revolutions to date - improvements in public health care and the scientific revolution of the last 50 years.

The next required revolution is to shift the focus to better value healthcare. This will involve working with citizens, improved data and new technology.

The definition of value breaks down into several areas

- Allocative value, which is defined by how well money within the healthcare system is distributed to different groups within the population.
- Technical value, determined by how well resources are used for outcomes for all the people in need in the population
- Personalised value, determined by how well the outcome relates to the values of each individual

On this last point far greater understanding of the population is required. At the moment we cannot answer some of the most basic questions about what types of services are better where in the country.

Once we understand this we can start to shift resource from budgets where there is evidence of overuse of lower value interventions to areas in which there is evidence of underuse and inequity. We can also shift resources from treatment to prevention

The presentation also made the point that currently the medical workforce are very highly trained but under educated. This means that they are given huge amounts of skills to perform their clinical work, but then they are given very little support understanding how the health system works and the wider context of population health - which would allow them to become effective managers who can help deliver better value healthcare. Sir Muir stated that it would be useful to have a "staff college" which all NHS clinicians and potential managers had to attend at some point in their careers, and this college should install a doctrine of better value healthcare management.

He also noted that the health care system itself needs to move away from a hierarchy (G.P, consultant, nurse etc) to a network based approach where all the professionals are of equal importance with the patient in the middle.