Saving lives and costs: a contribution to the sustainability of health care

# Driving Change in Health Care – A quality agenda



### *Curative care: Our starting point (pre 2006)*

- Tradition of private initiative
  - Hospitals, nursery homes privately owned
  - Medical specialists and general practitioners mostly private entrepreneurs
- Mixed public/private insurance
  - 60% social insurance (below average income level)
  - 30% private insurance (no government interference)
  - 10% civil servants, elderly, etc.
- Growing government interference (from ± 1980 onwards)
  - Main objective: Cost containment
  - Detailed price regulation, budgeting
  - National, and regional planning, and licensing



1

### System-related problems stressed the need for reform



2

## The question of productivity became increasingly urgent given the tight labor market

### Labor scarcity in *future* may put additional pressure on cost

Salary explosion from the past are illustrative of this may increase health care costs

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(Labor deficit health care 2010–2025)

Sources: CPB Netherlands Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis; ZIP innovatie; Strategy& analysis



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## The 2005–2006 reform intended to boost productivity in an inefficient health care system

Growing pressure on

the system to change

#### System pre-2006: macro effective but micro inefficient

- Effective macro instrument
  - Cost containment on macro (national) level
  - Policy implementation through intervening in the system
- But problematic on the micro level
  - Micro inefficiency
  - Lack of spirit of enterprise and innovative climate
  - Rationing  $\rightarrow$  waiting lists

- Social problems: waiting lists
- More costs
- Political strains
- Law suits





Competition will lead to more efficiency and lower prices



## We envisioned competitive dynamics contributing to cost control and quality of care

#### The competition model



#### Room to move

- Freedom of nominal premium setting
- Freedom to offer supplementary deductibles, group discounts, and extra insurance
- Freedom of contracting (insurer  $\leftrightarrow$  health care provider)
- Freedom of price negotiations
- Freedom of capital investments (capital costs in DRG's)

#### Changed incentives and responsibilities

- From budgeting to output pricing/p4p
- Insurers and providers have to compete for clients
- Quality indicators for hospital and outpatient care
- Increase amount of risk of insurers and providers
- Duty of care for health insurers

#### Clear government safeguards

- Compulsory acceptance for basic insurance
- Compulsory health insurance and income related subsidy
- Legally defined coverage of basis insurance
- No premium differentiation between insured
- Health Care Authority (market development, price regulation)
- Health Insurance Board (package of entitlements, risk equalization)



### The health care reform has been successful

- Waiting lists have been virtually eliminated
- Substantial increase in transparency as a result of DRGs
  - Better view on real costs of treatment
  - Better registrations
  - Better view on practice variation
- Prices have decreased
- And ... we are increasingly capable of controlling volume growth



## Negotiations for the free DRG segment resulted in lower prices

#### Price development hospital DBCs 2006-2010 (%, nominal)



### Health care reform succeeded in lowering prices, but it did not curb volume growth

Total growth in hospital expenditures (%)<sup>1)</sup>



#### The 2005-2006 Reform Paradigm

- Volume growth is a fact of life: ageing, innovation
- More efficiency is needed to deal with volume growth
- Competition will lead to more efficiency and lower prices

Price increase (%)



Volume growth (%)



Health care reform (competition) has indeed led to lower prices (driven by Bsegment)

But since the health care reform volume growth accelerated
Today's challenge: volume growth reduction without the waiting lists of the nineties

1) Hospital expenditure include day and/or night cost and include specialist health care (4) Estimate based on "Marktscan Medisch specialistische zorg 2011" 2) Consumer Price Index CBS

Sources: CBS Statline (Zorgrekeningen; expenditures at current and constant cost); RIVM Performance Of Dutch Health Care 2010; Stijging Zorgkosten ontrafeld; VGE; Marktscan Medisch specialistische zorg 2011; BoStrategy& analysis



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## The US experience also suggests controlling prices may focus on the wrong part of the equation



#### **Example US Medicare**

 Medicare has committed significant effort to figuring out the "ideal" price paid per unit of service to curb spending, when use rate is actually the more important variable

### Total Cost = Price × Use Rate

• The use rate is a direct function of the medical practice style in the delivery system

Growth (%) in physician fees compared with growth in total expenditures



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Sources: Mayo Clinic - Robert Smoldt



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## The Medicare price control cycle: cutting prices drives volume up



Sources: Mayo Clinic - Robert Smoldt



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# Usage is not a US problem: Higher rates in NL for hip replacements, TURPs and tonsillectomies

#### Incidence rates in the Netherlands and the USA

Number of treatments per 1000 population



Sources: 1) OECD 2009, 2) NL: DIS 2006-2007; USA: HCUP 2006, 3) Laparoscopic versus small-incision cholecystectomy, F.Keus , 2008, 4) NL: DIS 2006-2007; USA: CDC 2010



### The US is not an outlier in health usage – Budget based German health care ranks high



1) Or nearest year

Source: OECD, Strategy& analysis



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### Ageing is often blamed for volume growth. Wrong!



1) Volume growth is based on CBS total hospital and specialist expenditure figures at constant cost

2) Defined as total hospital and specialist expenditure figures at constant cost divided by the total number of admissions

3) Isolated effect of population ageing on driver

Sources: CBS Statline (Gezondheid en Welzijn); RIVM Performance of Dutch Health Care 2010; Kosten van Ziekten 2005; Strategy& analysis



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## Over the next 15 years, ageing will continue to drive volume, but yearly impact does not exceed 1%



Sources: United Nations; Department of Economic and Social Affairs; Strategy& analysis



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### The challenges to overcome for the payors



Source: Strategy&



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Acceptable medical practice is an enormous grey area – offering lots of room to respond to price and volume incentives and to counter disruptive innovations



The human body is a nearly endless source of revenues" – A medical specialist



# We may be inclined to overestimate the effectiveness of medical care

#### Attitude of an average patient



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## Over diagnosis is a real-risk; example lung cancer screening

Smokers are at 17 times higher risk of death as a result of lung cancer

Number of deaths per 1,000 over five years

But the number of abnormalities identified spiral CT diagnosis of lung cancer is similar for smokers and non-smokers Diagnosed cancer per 1,000 scans



### Over diagnosis for kidney cancer?

New kidney cancer diagnoses and deaths

Per 100,000 people



Sources: "Over diagnosed"; Welch; Strategy& analysis



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### What about other cancers?

#### Cancer and diagnoses U.S.



## Results from a 25 year randomized clinical trial in Canada suggest that breast cancer screening does not save lives

	Breast exams	Breast exams and mammography
Population	44.910 women	44.925 women
Diagnoses with breast cancer	3.133 women	3.250 women
Died with breast cancer	500 women	505 women

'And the screening had harms: One in five cancers found with mammography and treated was not a threat to the woman's health and did not need treatment such as chemotherapy, surgery or radiation'



# Screening for dementia: are patients aware that they are risking to be overdiagnosed

#### A BMJ study





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## No evidence for more than half of our common medical treatments

**51% of ~3,000 commonly used treatments in the U.K. Was of unknown effectiveness** Rating by a team of advisors, peer reviewers, experts, information specialists, and statisticians



Note: Study based on ~ 3,000 treatments

Sources: Clinical Evidence website 2011; How much of orthodox medicine is evidence based? 2007; Strategy& analysis



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#### **Practice variation for common elective surgeries**



1) Corrected for Sex, Age, and SES 2) Difference between p25 and p75 > 50% are regarded high practice variation, differences > 25% and, < 50% are regarded mediocre variations. Note: Hospitals with 10 or less operative DBC's are not taken into account. Sources: Rapport indicator indication setting Plexus; Strategy& analysis.





### Practice variation is common in health care – Also in The Netherlands

#### **Risk adjusted conversion ratio benign prostatic hyperplasia per hospital** Number of surgeries per 1,000 BPH-patients per year



#### Risk adjusted conversion ratio cataract surgeries



The differences between high and low conversion ratio's are too large to be interpreted as care of the same quality

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## Practice variation is as much a Dutch problem as a US problem

#### **Practice variation**



Systemic Component of Variation (SCV) – 2006-2007

Note: NL variation determined over about 450 municipalities. Population corrected for age and income differences; USA variation determined over average treatment rates per Hospital Referral Region (200). Population corrected for age, sex and race differences Source: Plexus 'Voorstudie naar praktijkvariatie in Nederland', Dartmouth Atlas of Healthcare, Strategy& analysis



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### Supply induced demand, and investing in health care does not necessarily buy quality



Physicians perception of quality is lower for higher healthcare spending regions % of 10.000 interviewed physicians



Patient-reported quality is lower for higher healthcare spending regions Change in satisfaction relative to quintile 1 in percentage points 1.00 1.00 1.00 0.93 1.03 1.01 1.00 1.00 1.01 0.99



### HCI index is higher for higher spending regions. However more patient rate their health care negatively

Note: HCL index measured by inpatient care intensity. Calculated as the simple average of the ratios to the national average of time spent in the hospital and the number of inpatient physician visits Source: The Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy and Clinical Practice - Health Care Spending, Quality and Outcomes; Booz & Company analysis Prepared for VGZ



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# We may be inclined to overestimate the effectiveness of medical care

Attitude of an Average Patient



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## Patients usually chose differently (and more conservatively) than their doctors

## Change in number of treatments after shared decision making with simple decision aids $$_{\ensuremath{\varnothing}-30\%}$$



Source: The Cochrane Collaboration (Wolf; 1996; Volk; 1999; Man-Son-Hing; 1999; Morgan; 2000; Dodin; 2001; Auvinen; 2002; Frosch; 2003; Whelan; 2004); Strategy& analysis



# Enhancing the quality and appropriateness of care has the potential to lower costs and increase the sustainability of health care



### Decision aid also have substantial impact in practice

Informed patients choose more conservatively (~9500 patients in Washington State)



#### Nijmegen: IVF Patiënten kiezen vaker voor de doelmatige optie

- Keuze tussen dubbele embryo transfer (hogere zwangerschap kans, ook hogere kans op medische complicaties van meerling) en single embryo transfer
- Cyclus 1: 43% van de patiënten voor een single transfer versus 32% in de controlegroep
- Cyclus 2: 26% van de patiënten voor een single transfer versus 16% in de controlegroep

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#### Person centered care increase quality and lowers costs: Example hip fractures Sweden

#### Patient centred care for Hip fractures

- Care pathway tailored to the individual's needs
- Starting point: Tailored to the patient's needs?
  - What was the patient capable of before the fracture?
  - What is the social network of the patient?
  - What are her objective in life?
  - Which steps to independence are mostly valued (e.g., taking care of personal hygiene)
- Differentiated care for different personality types, e.g.,
  - Autonomous patients
  - Modest patients
  - Detached people



Source: Patients with acute hip fractures, motivation, effectiveness, and costs in two different care systems



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## Patient centeredness is especially important in end of life settings

Quality of live and health care costs last week of life (2008, US\$)





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### End of life care can actually increase life

Hospice care increases survival time <sup>1</sup>) ... Average number of survival days after diagnosis ... as does early palliative care<sup>2)</sup> Average number of survival days after diagnosis



2) n = 151

Source: Comparing hospice and non-hospice patient survival among patients who die within a three-year window; Journal of pain and symptom management; March 2007; Early palliative care for patients with metastatic non-small-cell lung cancer; The new England journal of medicine; 2010; Strategy& analysis



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## The 2005-2006 reform paradigm: Lower prices via competition to pay for inevitable volume growth

### System pre-2006: Macro effective but micro inefficient

- Effective macro instrument
  - Cost containment on macro (national) level
  - Policy implementation through intervening in the system
- But problematic on the micro level
  - Micro inefficiency
  - Lack of spirit of enterprise & innovative climate
  - Rationing  $\rightarrow$  waiting lists

Growing pressure on the system to change

- Cost growth
- Demographics (ageing and labour market)
- Technology developments
- · Law suits

The 2005-06 reform: More efficiency to accommodate volume



- Volume growth is a fact of life: ageing, innovation
- More efficiency is needed to deal with volume growth
- Competition will lead to more efficiency and lower prices



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We see health care systems move continuously in between forms of budgeting and fee for service





### The challenges to overcome for the payors



Bron: Strategy&



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The challenge is to use contracting and reimbursement to create a flywheel from quality



### Fragmentation needs to be solved in order to capture the benefits of investing in quality

### The theoretical business case versus the fragmented business case

Illustrative money flows





### But hospitals investing quality will see a revenue reduction





### Three levers for reimbursement and contracting

#### New product definitions

 E.g. shared decision making consultations, therapy adherence



#### **Reimburse differently**

- Shared savings
- Transition paths

### Contract selectively and in a differentiated way

- Steer patients to Quality
- Provides





## Example of redefining product definitions in order to encompass quality instead of volume

#### **Performance definitions**





# Paying for quality instead of volume can result in higher prices but lower costs: The need for sophisticated "products"

Objective to control volume with quality initiatives

Not care rationing



Incentivized by product definitions

- Need to counter the volume incentive in the system
  - Income compensation
  - Compensation for extra cost (e.g., admin, IT)
- Need for hard inescapable volume agreements
  - To eliminate leak-away effects at the level of the participating and non-participating hospitals
- Benefits can be used by the hospital for more quality improvement investments
- Every 1% decline in hospital volume frees up €200Mn







### Connecting quality and financing in contracting policies

