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ORIGINAL RESEARCH & CONTRIBUTIONS
4. Identifying Opportunities for a Medical Group to Improve Outcomes for Patients with Coronary Artery Disease and Heart Failure: An Exploratory Study.

The potential impact of optimizing care for patients age 40-75 years treated for coronary artery disease and heart failure, by a multispecialty group between August 2007 and July 2009 was calculated using deaths that might be prevented or postponed if optimal care was achieved. The greatest opportunity to prevent or postpone deaths—70% of the total opportunity—lies with optimizing care for ambulatory patients. Optimizing care for patients hospitalized for acute myocardial infarction with or without ST-segment elevation on ECG would prevent or postpone only 2% of deaths.

Dr Davenport is the Director of Primary Care Services for Kaiser Permanente Orange County.

ON THE COVER
“Myrtle Beach Sunrise” by John Davenport, MD, is a photograph taken at the House of Davenport and his family have rented each summer for almost 40 years. The modest house offers the serenity Dr Davenport tried to capture here. This photograph was taken with a Canon EOS 7D on July 4, 2010. Dr Davenport is the Director of Primary Care Services for Kaiser Permanente Orange County.

58% were discharged within 24 hours, 31% between 24 and 48 hours, and 11% after 48 hours. Patients had an increased risk of prolonged hospitalization.

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SPECIAL REPORTS

63 Is Patient-Centered Care the Same As Person-Focused Care?
Barbara Starfield, MD, MPH
Person-focused care, based on accumulated knowledge of people, specifically focuses on the whole person. It refers to interpersonal relationships over time, considers episodes as part of life-course experiences with health, views diseases as interrelated phenomena, and considers morbidity as combinations of types of illnesses (multimorbidity), and views body systems as interrelated. Tools to assess person-focused care are available and deserve more widespread use in primary care.

CASE STUDY

80 Acute Hypersensitivity Syndrome Caused by Valproic Acid: A Review of the Literature and a Case Report.
Robert G Bota, MD, MSG; Allein P Ligasan, RN; Tom G Najdowski, LCSW; Andrei Novac, MD
Valproic acid is an antiepileptic medication used in the treatment of bipolar disorder. This literature review focuses on aromatic anticonvulsants (AA) and non-AA medications causing acute hypersensitivity syndrome, a less well-known complication. A case is presented of a woman, age 25 years, with a generalized rash, fever, liver and kidney involvement, and eosinophilia.

EDITORIAL

91 The Patient’s Question—Unanswered.
Mikel Aickin, PhD
Faced with a treatment choice for a newly diagnosed condition, the patient's question is: "Which treatment will give me more benefit?" Although unanswerable, a question that may be is: "What is the probability that I will do better on treatment A or B?" This article explores this philosophical question offering a method to recover real clinical research: the "almost perfect experiment," using a group of highly closely matched pairs, each given treatment A or B.