

Research Informs Policy ??? Policy Informs Research ?????

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When Research Does Not Connect

U of Minnesota Center for Rural Health Research in 1992-1993:

- two papers from the Center
- detailed analysis of a DRG-based definition of limited service hospital
- in the context of the 72-hour limit in place for the EACH/RPCH program

Legislation developed in 1997 for the Critical Access Hospital program

- continued to use length-of-stay as the measure
- struggled until change made to average length-of-stay

Connection missed: health services research to support policy choice

When Research Does Connect

RUPRI analysis in 1996-97

- of changes in the AAPCC
- ability to assess changes quickly

Policy Process

- interest in raising rural rates
- developing a floor payment
- measuring change in payment

When Research Does Connect (continued)

Essentials

- utility of the work in an immediate sense
- interactions in developing the work and products
- paying attention to details of policy
- frequent interaction

When Research Does Connect: Post-BBA

- RUPRI identification of problematic parts of the BBA
- U of North Carolina work with wage index
- Walsh Center work with outpatient payment modeling
- WWAMI work with Medicare Incentive Payment (bonus payment to physicians)

When Research Parallels Policy

- Recent experience with J-1 Visa Waiver issue
- HPSA designation debate

Two Ships Passing

- Medicare+Choice debates
- Medicare Reform, Insurance reform

Importance of policy informing research

RUPRI Center for Rural Health Policy Analysis

www.rupri.org/healthpolicy

