

Open School

Video Activity: *Escape Fire*: Two Stories about the American Health Care System

<http://www.ihl.org/education/IHIOpenSchool/resources/Pages/Activities/EscapeFire.aspx>

Facilitator Instructions

- Review the learning objectives and description with your group.
- Watch the *Escape Fire* video clip* (10 min 26 sec), [available on the Web page for this activity](#).
- As a group, discuss your reactions to the video, using the discussion questions as a guide.

Learning Objectives

At the end of this activity, you will be able to:

- Explain how the fee-for-service system, which is often used to compensate health professionals, has impacted the US health care system.
- Discuss how preventative interventions can influence a person's health.

Description

In this clip* from *Escape Fire: A Fight to Rescue American Healthcare*, you will hear about two patients trying to navigate the US health care system. Yvonne Osborn began suffering from severe chest pain at the age of 34. She went through multiple heart surgeries to address her symptoms, but her physicians and surgeons never discussed working to moderate her high cholesterol, diabetes, or high blood pressure. Roy Litton, who also suffers from chest pain, has never had a primary care provider because he does not have insurance. The only time he sees a doctor is during his regular emergency room visits, where providers continuously tell him he needs to adopt a heart-healthy diet that he can't afford.

*Note: You can purchase the full-length *Escape Fire* documentary on [iTunes](#) and [Cinema Now](#), or you can rent or purchase it on [Amazon](#). (Amazon Prime members can watch for free with Prime Instant Video.)

Related IHI Open School Online Courses

- [QCV 101: Achieving Breakthrough Quality, Access, and Affordability](#)
- [TA 101: Introduction to Population Health](#)
- [PS 103: Teamwork and Communication](#)
- [PFC 102: A Guide to Shadowing: Seeing Care through the Eyes of Patients and Families](#)

Key Topics

Cardiovascular care, chronic condition, patient self-management, prevention and wellness, patient- and family-centered care, Triple Aim, engage physicians in improvement, redesign processes and systems, efficiency and waste reduction, health reform in the US, large-scale improvement, hospital operations.

Discussion Questions

1. How does a fee-for-service model affect individual patients? How does it affect the US health care system as a whole?
2. What are some preventative measures that could have helped improve the quality of life for Yvonne Osborn and Roy Litton?
3. Can you recall an example of a patient experiencing an adverse health event that could have been prevented with more coordinated care?
4. If you had the ability to create a health care system from scratch, what would you do differently? For example, how would you address the 20 percent of patients who account for 80 percent of the cost?

Facilitator, feel free to adjust these questions and/or add your own.