

High Risk Drinking . . . A Rite of Passage?

You have the right . . .

to a study and sleep environment free of interruptions

never to be a victim of sexual assault or acquaintance rape

never to be physically or verbally abused

to not have your property damaged

to a room free of vomit and chaos

Speak up to your roommate.

Speak up to your friends living in your residence hall.

Speak up to your Greek brother or sister.

Speak up to your friends on the team.

Speak up for a change.

Speak!

New View 2000
Office of Student Life
University of Oregon

Errors

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thing is going to save lives, it's not always done," Hibbard said.

Hibbard and the other panel members are charged with developing the National Quality Report, which will evaluate the health care delivery system and recommend measures to improve the quality.

"There isn't anything more important than taking care of people," said Michael Cook, a member of the forum's board of directors. "There is evidence that there are breakdowns that could be avoided."

Although the panel is still mapping out its study strategies, the group has committed to completing the report, mandated by Congress, by 2003.

The experts will examine the effectiveness of hospital systems, which are not always held accountable for incorrect procedures. As a possible solution, the

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Michael Cook
Quality Forum
board member

panel will look at the successful organization of the airline industry's system. After crashes, airline agencies immediately develop safeguards to try to prevent the same types of incidents again, Hibbard said.

"We need to develop systems that find where the errors happen and study them," she said.

Additionally, the forum will try to make the industry more consistent across the country. For example, Cook said effective medical practices in Oregon should also be used in South Carolina.

"We must find out how to convert existing knowledge that will raise the performance at all levels," Cook said.

Another goal of the forum is to find a way to provide health insurance for more people. Approximately 44 million people in the United States are not medically insured, according to the Institute of Medicine, a supporter of the National Health Care Quality Forum.

"We're not very good at providing access to our population," said Hibbard, who received her doctorate degree in 1982 from the University of California at Berkeley.

For the project, Hibbard is traveling to Washington, D.C., about once every two weeks, an exhausting yet vital schedule to keep.

"It's complex but really important for people to understand at least the broader issues," Hibbard said. "My hope is that people will pay attention to this because a lot of important decisions could be made."

Hibbard was selected for the panel because of her work to help the public better understand options in health care.

"She's done some really ground-breaking research on how to talk to consumers about (medical care) and the choices they make," Rother said. "She is really the leader on how to communicate to consumers."

As a whole, the panel includes some of the finest health care experts in the country, Rother said.

"All of the major stake holders are on the board," Hibbard said. "The hope is that there is some agreement on what to report to consumers."