

AD at Major Hospitals

All Major Healthcare Facilities Practice
Standard-of-Care



Healthcare delivery across the nation is now harmonized by the standard-of-care. That includes the major clinics: Mayo, Mass General, Johns Hopkins, and Cleveland Clinic.

Patients, for the most part, are either privately insured or, if they are older, are covered by Medicare. Within the insurance

reimbursement model, all doctors, regardless of the prestige of the institute in which they practice, follow the guidelines of the “standard of care.”

Standard-of-care is a legal standard that protects the practitioner and the practice. But does it always serve the patient?

Drug Trials

Drug trials offer a rare oasis from the standard of care. In a trial, a small number of patients (<1000) may be treated with a developmental drug that could be 5 or more years away from general use, if approved by the FDA.

The only other opportunity for a patient to be treated outside the standard of care is through private pay doctors. These “concierge” doctors do not accept insurance and are able to practice outside of the insurance coding that encumbers

most doctors.

Alzheimer’s disease offers a

particular challenge for those looking for health care beyond the standard of care. Several large drug firms indicated they are opting out of Alzheimer’s research due to several recent drug trail failures.



10 Rich Men Dictate the Standard-of-Care

Who sets the medical standard-of-care? Could you believe 10 wealthy men? Who are they? The 10 CEO’s of the largest drug companies.

The standard-of-care is now a process of creating a diagnosis that allows for tests and ultimately prescriptions. The drugs are really the endpoint of the standard-of-care. So who sets the

standard? The leaders of the drug companies. Their ultimate decision is a financial one. They invest \$1 billion dollars and 10 years to produce a drug so it must be a financial success. Are the best drugs for patients also the biggest financial successes? Do you own Pfizer stock? Then you set the standard-of-care too.

2014 Rank	Company	2007 Rank	Estimated 2014 Drug Sales (\$ millions)
1	Roche	5	49,500
2	Sanofi-Aventis	3	48,011
3	GlaxoSmithKline	2	43,300
4	Novartis	4	42,875
5	Johnson & Johnson	7	32,547
6	Pfizer	1	29,287