The Legal And Ethical Concerns That Arise From Using Complex Predictive Analytics In Health Care

Presenter:

I. Glenn Cohen, Professor, Harvard Law School, Director, Petrie-Flom Center for Health Law Policy, Biotechnology, and Bioethics

Co-Authors:

Ruben Amarasingham, CEO & President PCCI
Anand Shah, VP, PCCI
Bin Xie, Health Services Manager, PCCI
Bernard Lo, President, Greenwall Foundation
HealthAffairs

One Hypothetical Use Case

Health Affairs

- Physician decision on whether to send a patient with moderate organ dysfunction to ICU.
- Evaluation for risk of arrest or adverse event would take hours, limited accuracy.
- The Future: predictive analytics model might ascertain the instantaneous risk for cardiopulmonary arrest of every one of a thousand patients in a given hospital at every second and determine which patients would most benefit from ICU admission.

Lifecycle of Predictive Analytics Model

Phase 1: Acquiring Data

- •Consent and Privacy: Should we require explicit consent? Is de-identification possible? Should patients be given notice?
- Equitable Representation: The importance of community engagement.

Phase 2: Building and Validating Model

- Patient-Centered Perspectives: How to ensure patient role in governance? Trust models? Analogy to biobanks.
- Validation: How rigorous? Who decides?
- Transparency: Key variables and relative contribution disclosed? Will doctors trust a "black box"? Intellectual property protection.

Lifecycle of Predictive Analytics Model

Health Affairs

Phase 3: Testing Model in Real World Settings

- •Consent: Do patients need to consent to have the model used "on them"? Notification when they enter hospital?
- •Liability: Integration with decision support software may lead to new liability risks. Vicarious liability for health systems?
- Choice Architecture: Should the model trigger default care intervention (opt out)?

Phase 4: Broader Dissemination of Model

• Equitable Access: Can all health systems that contribute to the model development afford to implement? Graduated licensing fees?

Lifecycle of Predictive Analytics Model

Health Affairs

- Imperfect Implementation: Can result from poorly constructed work flows, insufficient consideration of patients' preferences, inadequate checks and balances. Who has liability for "off label" use?
- The Role of the Physician: New training requirements and communication challenges.
 Shift to team-based care. Frequent hand-offs and problem of lack of awareness of patient preferences? Importance of maintaining physician override.