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SYMPOSIUM

NATIONAL HEALTH CARE REFORM: THE LEGAL ISSUES

INTRODUCTION

On February 25-26, 1994, the Law-Medicine Center hosted a conference entitled "National Health Care Reform: The Legal Issues." A number of prominent scholars from around the country were invited to deliver papers, and four of those papers are being published in this symposium issue of *Health Matrix*.

Although national health reform no longer appears to be a front-page issue, the topics discussed in these papers address major legal aspects of current and future developments in the health care system.

The first paper is by Larry Gostin, Professor of Law at Georgetown University Law Center and a member of the President's Health Care Reform Task Force. In the course of his service on the task force, Professor Gostin obtained an inside look at the threats to privacy from new methods of recordkeeping, and he addressed these concerns as a keynote event at the conference.

Another paper, by Henry T. Greely, Professor of Law at Stanford, examines the legal issues raised by health care purchasing alliances. While the alliance concept featured prominently in the original versions of President Clinton's health care reform proposals, the legal issues it raises extend to current efforts to create and regulate purchasing cooperatives, including the California experience with HIPC.

Eleanor Kinney, Professor at the Indiana University School of Law, explores administrative law issues common to government regulation of health care. She focuses on federal administrative agencies, including the new bodies that would have emerged from national reform efforts, and her findings are important for state administrative proceedings and for future federal regulatory programs.

The impact of third-party intrusion into the patient-physician relationship is the subject of a paper by David Orentlicher, M.D., J.D., Ethics and Policy Counsel for the American Medical Association. The traditional nature of the patient-physician relationship is being altered by government and private inter-

ventions that are accelerating despite the demise of major federal reform efforts.

This conference reflects the Law-Medicine Center's tradition of supporting legal scholarship at the forefront of health care developments, and we are proud to present the following articles as evidence of our continuing commitment to that tradition.

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