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IN THIS ISSUE

As patients return to regular care, can they avoid medicine's costly excesses?

symptoms to watch

From pandemic's adversity, opportunity

It's unwise to defer care for kids, the chronically ill, and the

unexpected push for technology and innovation

sexually active

Medicine's

BY THE

**NUMBERS** 

41%

Percentage of surveyed

patients who said they

delayed or avoided

2020 due to the

medical treatment in

coronavirus pandemic.

~7.7 million

employer-provided health

\$750 billion

estimate (2009) of sums

U.S. health care system.

48%

Percentage of times when patients reported receiving a screening or test in a doctor's office visit, followed by lab tests

Estimate of number of

Americans who lost

insurance due to pandemic-related

economic crash.

Influential expert

wasted annually on unnecessary medical tests and procedures and other inefficiencies in

Checklists of

for and act on

PATRICK MALONE

Better Healthcare Newsletter from Patrick Malone

We may not have realized it, but all of us have participated these last 12 months in one of the major health care experiments in recent times.

It may reshape the practice of modern medicine, and could have big

When the coronavirus pandemic raged in 2020, the U.S. medical

system at times all but shut down, save for emergency treatment of

those infected with Covid-19. Patients and doctors, hospitals, and labs

canceled or postponed untold numbers of tests and procedures. This

Researchers only now are piecing together the severity and duration

unprecedented look from 2020 about the trillions of dollars we spend as a nation each year on health care. How many of these dollars are

necessary? And how many are wasteful and driven by the medical

If you feel bad or experience certain symptoms, common sense says

to get in touch with your doctor and seek medical care — ASAP. But as the pandemic quells and greater normalcy returns, patients may need to be as skeptical as ever about their medical care, participating

as fuller partners in their treatment, researching carefully, and asking

loads of guestions about tests and procedures ordered for them. This

As patients return to regular care, can

they avoid medicine's costly excesses?

of the medical system's stoppage. But we are likely to get an

situation has gone up and down, especially as different parts of the

impacts on individual well-being and pocketbooks.

country have become viral hot spots.

establishment's pursuit of profits?

month's newsletter: why and how.

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