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CHCF CEO Says Health Care Industry Stuck in Past, Calls for Changes

During a keynote address at the 2009 American Medical Informatics Association Symposium in San Francisco on Sunday, California HealthCare Foundation President and CEO Mark Smith said that while patients are more tech-savvy than ever, the health care industry is stuck in the past, *FierceHealthIT* reports

CHCF is the publisher of *iHealthBeat*.

He said, "The only thing that we do the same way we did 20 years ago is health care." Smith said significant change will not occur unless the health care industry:

- Embraces affordability;
- Focuses on the technology consumer by learning what end users want and need; and
- Ends "analog limbo" by connecting data sources.

He added that health care payment reform is imperative for any of those things to happen. Smith said, "As long as we pay for widgets -- patient visits -- we cannot expect docs to embrace technology-based care" (Vesel, *FierceHealthIT*, 11/16).

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