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Why physician leaders fail?

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Physician leadership is very important, especially in the health care services industry and hospitals. Traditionally the doctor or physician was the acclaimed leader who the rest of the staff, the community and the political directorate looked to and depended upon for vision and guidance in setting up clinical as well as community programs for the nation's health. Gradually, over the past 30 or so years, the business of medicine has emerged which requires a different knowledge base and skill set which the physician lacks and so the shift to non-physician administrators began and continues. For us as physicians, to address this reality is crucial to re-establishing physician leadership that is effective and focuses on the issues we know to be most important to our patients and the health of the communities we serve. This speech addresses some basic flaws and failings but also makes suggestions as to how we can become the effective physician leader for today.

Biography

Timothy Barrett has graduated from the University of the West Indies in 1974 and did his General Practice until 1986. He has studied Psychiatry in Manchester, England under the supervision of Professors D Goldberg, N Kessel and E Szabadi. He received his MSc (Psych) from the University of Manchester, School of Medicine, in 1992. He has authored and co-authored several research papers. He is an Associate Lecturer at the UWISCMR Bahamas, is currently in private practice as well as a Consultant Psychiatrist for the Public Hospitals Authority in Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry.

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