

# It's All About Me... and You

by T. Jeffrey Dmochowski, M.D.  
GRIPA, Chief Medical Officer

**"IT'S ALL ABOUT POLITICS AND MONEY."  
Isn't that always what it comes down to?**

**A**s I listen to the, sometimes heated, discussion around Health Care Reform in many of the meetings and informal gatherings I am fortunate to attend, I have, of recent, found myself pondering: is this the same tone present when this Country's forefathers debated the saneness of risking their fortunes, future, their lives, in choosing military strife over untenable status quo; literally risking all in hope of a better life prospect?

Our present day struggle to work through the challenges around designing and transitioning to a higher quality, more efficient health system to benefit us and our progeny the pales in comparison. Our main enemies are apathy, inertia, and complacency; silent and invisible though they be; still real threats to our success.

As uncomfortable as being addressed or thought of as a "team member" makes me feel, in point of fact, that is what we all are; must act as. Teams, platoons, companies, what have you, win battles, not individuals. It is the progressive deterioration of coordination that most threatens the quality and



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efficiency of healthcare today. Clinical Integration holds the greatest promise to address this threat. GRIPA, your organization, as well as the RGHS medical and dental staff, have capable, committed leaders in this effort but they, of themselves, are not enough. I, as may many of you, looked forward to easing into retirement; "leaving the fray". As stated, many recognize the goal of coordinated, high quality, efficient care as being wise and worthy. With so much at risk, will any of us turn our backs, walk away? Do we pause to consider how our personal health care needs, or those of our family and friends, will be met "when the time comes"?

The Declaration of Independence wasn't written overnight; nor the battle for independence won in a week, a month, or a year. Our challenge doesn't require we risk nearly as much as they did but does sound the call to participate. Are we up to the struggle; for the good of all?

**Get informed.  
Be active.**