



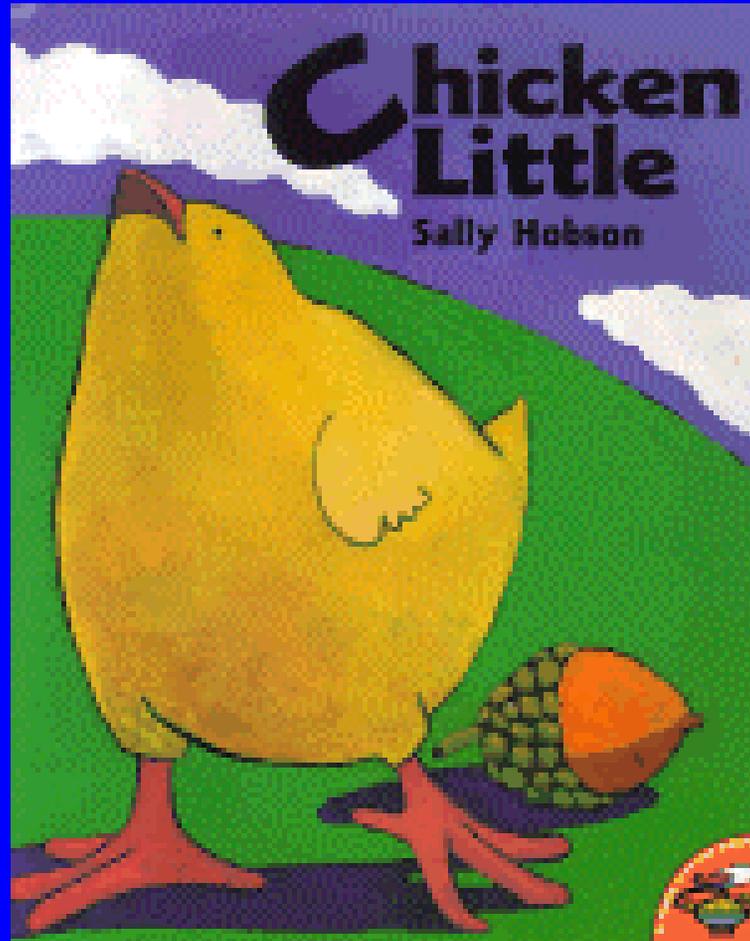
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Controlling Costs & Improving Quality: Policy Implications/Possible Solutions

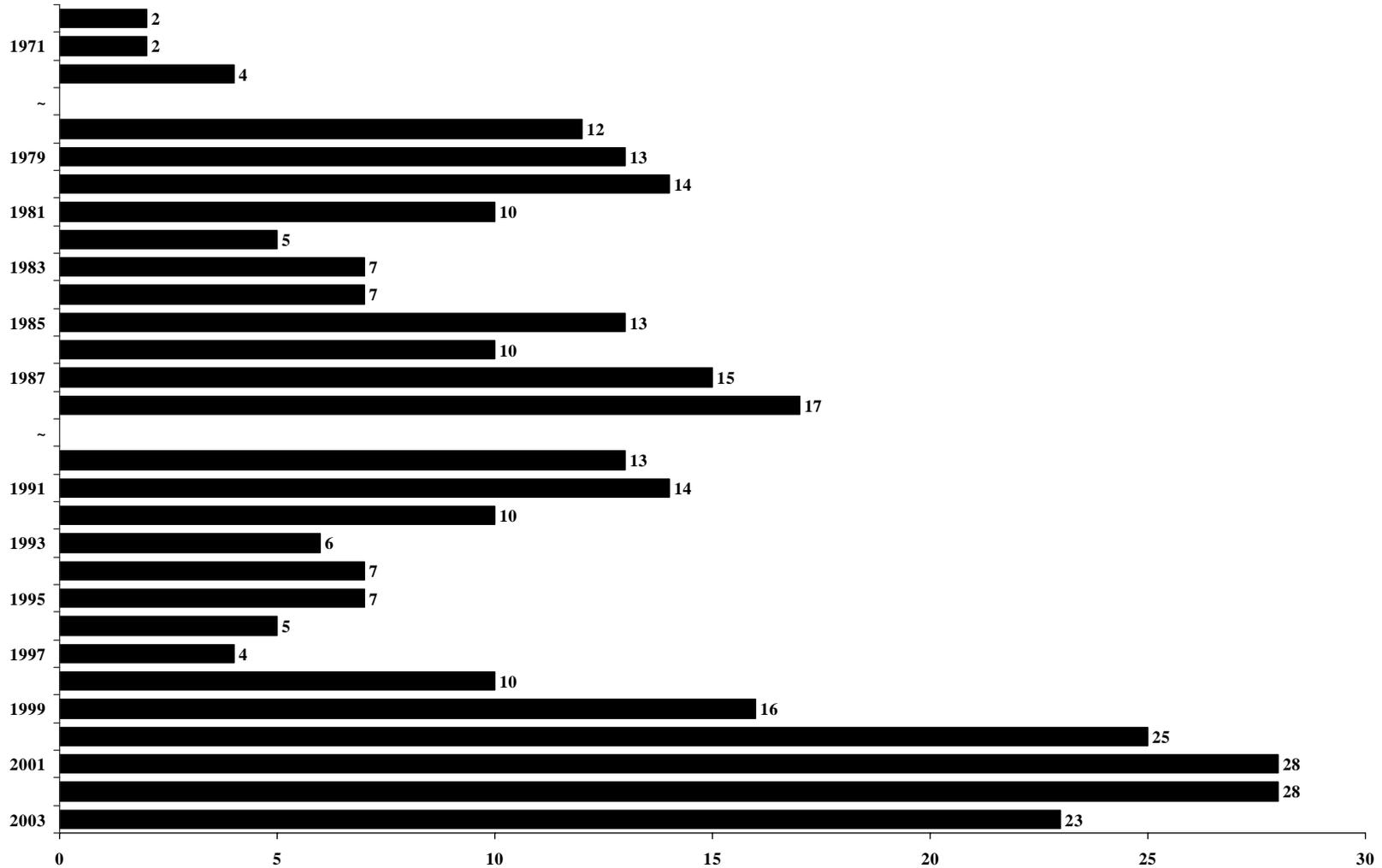
Steve Schoenbaum
The Commonwealth Fund
December 2, 2004

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Medicare – Is the Sky Falling?



Number of Years Before HI Trust Fund Projected to Be Exhausted



~ Missing Data for Years 1973–1977 and 1989.

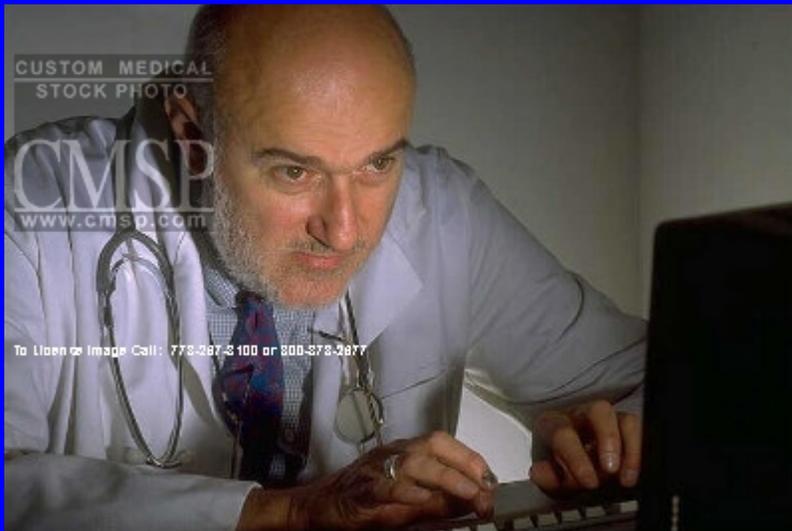
Source: Congressional Research Service 1995 and Annual Medicare Trustees Reports.



Beware Low Hanging Fruit

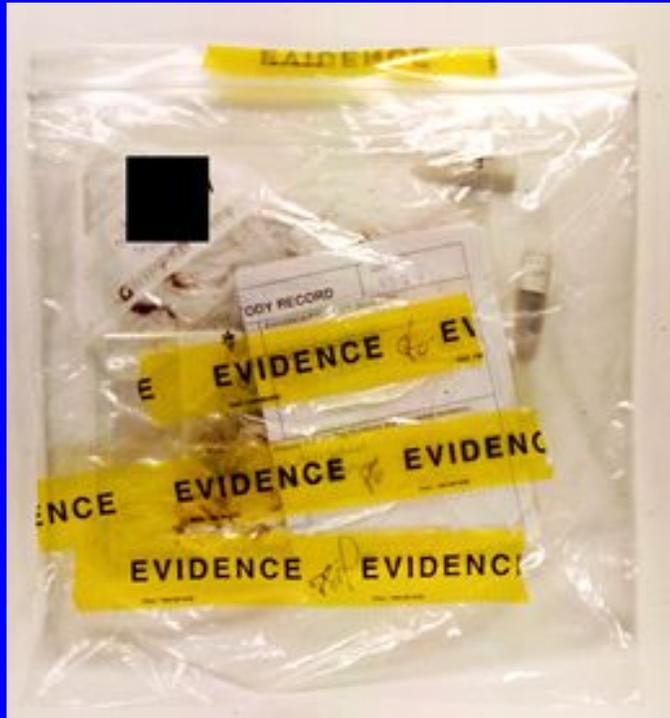


Clinical Information Technology



- IT is a tool
- IT is not necessary but highly desirable for quality improvement
- IT is definitely not sufficient for quality improvement

Finding & Applying Evidence



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