A free, half-day symposium event with nationally recognized experts on antitrust law and health policy intended to make this traditional tool of economic policy intelligible to the health policy community. Panels will focus on the utility of antitrust law to counter the pricing power of physicians and hospitals and the implications of Accountable Care Organizations for competitive markets. Panels will address the ability of antitrust law to both prevent the development of uncompetitive markets and to offer effective remedies in the case of past consolidations by either hospitals, physicians or other providers.

AGENDA
May 29, 2014

Keynote: Antitrust and Why it Matters for Competitive Markets?
An overview of trends in recent hospital consolidation, the impact on pricing and a history of past efforts at antitrust enforcement in health care, including problems in using antitrust law to address the lack of competitive markets once a merger has occurred.

Conventional Antitrust Policy: Application to Today’s Health Systems
A discussion of the development of multi-hospital systems spanning geographic markets, the use of “all or nothing” bargaining and other contracting strategies, and the effectiveness of current regulatory/legislative remedies for extant monopolies.

The Future of Antitrust: Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs)
The discussion of the development of ACOs in preserving or even expanding competition and more broadly the role of antitrust in using risk-based payment to affect competitive markets and the exercise of market power.

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