



Elements That Must Be Part of Health Care Reform

We believe all Americans share a basic need: Access to quality health care that is affordable enough for individuals, businesses, and society to sustain improvements in health and our financial security for future generations.



We believe that with leadership from the White House, Congress must develop a national approach to health care reform that upholds the pillars of quality, access and affordability. For this to happen, Congress needs to act on the following priorities:

Expand Access to Coverage

- Put consumers at the heart of any new approach.
- Build upon the strengths of the employer-based system, while providing new mechanisms and markets for coverage.
- The tax treatment of health care benefits should be fair.
- Ensure the neediest populations have an adequate safety net and subsidies to make coverage affordable.
- Place children first by building on State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) and its important safety net role.
- Promote personal responsibility through the wide availability of affordable and meaningful plan choices.
- Spread the benefits of risk-pooling to all consumers.



Improve Affordability, Value and Health Outcomes

- Encourage preventive care and wellness programs to save lives, improve productivity, safeguard health and lower costs. Prevention and wellness must begin in childhood and must be promoted in families, schools, communities, and workplaces.

- Provide more information to help consumers manage their own health through healthy lifestyles and disease prevention.
- Advance health information technology to create uniform interoperable standards that improve the quality of care and decrease overall health care costs.
- Reward care that is recommended by evidence, coordinated, and delivered in appropriate settings by clinicians who are engaged in ongoing efforts to measure and improve outcomes.
- Provide coverage to the uninsured and improve the value by reducing the shifting of uncompensated care costs, by improving the productivity of the workforce, and by reducing the burden of untreated chronic disease in the public and private programs.



Increase Quality and Efficiency

- Coordinate care to fulfill patients' needs and desires and to improve the delivery of health care services.
- Inform consumers with accessible, understandable and readily available data on health care quality, costs and outcomes at the level of individual providers, systems of providers, and health plans.
- Modernize reimbursement policies of both public and private payers to promote more integrated care, and reward higher quality care and better outcomes.
- Research the comparative effectiveness of all aspects of the health care system and make the results publicly available.
- Improve accuracy and fairness of payments in public programs and create incentives across all payers for efficiency and quality.
- Develop specific payment strategies to improve the delivery of care for patients with multiple chronic conditions, including patients in the last six months of life.

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