

# HHS Priorities

## for America's Health Care Future

*Every American Insured*

### **Every American Insured**

Every American has access to basic health insurance at an affordable price. State governments, with help from the federal government, use innovative approaches to expand access to coverage. Changes in tax law create an even playing field for those who buy coverage through their employer or as an individual. Programs such as Medicare and Medicaid which cover the elderly, disabled, and those in need are reformed and strengthened.

*Insurance for Children in Need*

### **Insurance for Children in Need**

Low-income children continue to be covered by health insurance. The State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) is renewed for another five years, is funded at appropriate levels, and remains focused on children in need.

*Value-Driven Health Care*

### **Value-Driven Health Care**

We have a health care system where there is competition based on price and quality. Engaged consumers demand and receive better value. The value-driven cornerstones become integrated throughout the health-care system and form the foundation for better health, at lower cost for all Americans. The growth of health care costs is restrained because consumers know the cost and quality of their health care — and they have a financial incentive to seek higher quality at lower cost.

*Information Technology*

### **Information Technology**

Secure interoperable electronic records are available to patients and their doctors anytime, anywhere. Immediate access to accurate information reduces dangerous medical errors and helps control health-care costs.

*Personalized Health Care*

### **Personalized Health Care**

Health care is tailored to the individual. The potential for disease is identified through improved information – including genomic information – and addressed through preemptive intervention. Discovery and innovation move higher quality and safer medical products to the market faster and more cost-effectively.

*Health Diplomacy*

### **Health Diplomacy**

Goodwill is fostered through health care – a universal language of caring. HHS and other federal agencies train Central American health-care workers and provide direct patient care. Collaboration is fostered worldwide through partnerships with governments and the private sector around health issues. The President's emergency plan for AIDS relief becomes one model of outreach.

*Prevention*

### **Prevention**

A culture of wellness helps prevent debilitating and costly health problems. Individual health care is built on a foundation of responsibility for personal wellness, which includes participating in regular physical activity, eating a healthful diet, taking advantage of medical screenings, and making healthy choices to avoid risky behaviors.

*Louisiana Health Care System*

### **Louisiana Health Care System**

Adversity turns to advantage. The Louisiana Health Care System of antiquated, inefficient emergency room care becomes a place where every citizen has access to basic and affordable health insurance coverage, allowing for prevention-centered, neighborhood-located and electronically-connected medical care.

*Preparedness*

### **Preparedness**

Americans are better prepared for an influenza pandemic as well as the health consequences from other emergencies and disasters. The capacity to rapidly produce vaccine is increased, national stockpiles and distribution systems are in place, communication and disease monitoring systems are expanded, and local preparedness has been dramatically enhanced. Planning and preparedness encompasses all levels of government and society.



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