



AN AMERICAN SOLUTION QUALITY AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE

HEALTH REFORM AT A GLANCE: STRENGTHENING MEDICARE

Medicare has been a stable, reliable program for the elderly, disabled and those with end-stage renal disease for over four decades, providing coverage for over 45 million individuals this year. The House Democratic discussion draft rewards efficient delivery of quality care and makes investments that will enable beneficiaries to continue to access affordable care. These efforts will help modernize the program and strengthen Medicare's financial health while significantly improving benefits in the program.

HEALTH INSURANCE EXCHANGE PROVISIONS IN THE DISCUSSION DRAFT:

PRIMARY CARE, MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES AND COORDINATED CARE

- Overhaul the sustainable growth rate system in Medicare's physician fee schedule to:
 - Eliminate the 21% cut in physician fees planned for 2011 and put physician payments on a sustainable path for the future; and,
 - Reward primary care, coordination, and efficiency
- Increase reimbursement for primary care services and encourage training of primary care physicians
- Improve access to mental health services
- Expand programs that reward physicians for spending time coordinating care for their patients
- Extend key protections for rural providers to ensure access to care in rural areas

AFFORDABILITY AND QUALITY OF CARE

- Fill the "donut hole" in Medicare Part D (prescription drug benefit) by providing an additional \$500 in coverage in 2011, and increasing that amount over time.
- Eliminate "donut hole" within 15 years
- Eliminate cost-sharing for preventive services
- Limit cost-sharing requirements in Medicare Advantage plans to the amount charged for the same services in traditional Medicare coverage
- Improve the low-income subsidy programs in Medicare by:
 - Increasing asset limits for programs that help Medicare beneficiaries pay premiums and cost-sharing
 - Facilitating enrollment in subsidy programs
 - Permanently extending the Qualified Individual program for low-income Medicare enrollees
- Enhance access to care for beneficiaries with limited proficiency in the English language
- Enhance nursing home transparency and accountability requirements related to resident protection and quality of care

PROGRAM SOLVENCY

- Improve payment accuracy to ensure that the right amount is paid
- Expand funding and authority to fight waste, fraud and abuse
- Decrease overpayments to private plans