

500 Day Plan - 250 Day Update



Secretary Leavitt's

250 Day Update

May 2007

"The President of the United States has given me a very clear mission: to help Americans live longer, healthier and better lives, and to do it in a way that protects our economic competitiveness as a Nation."

—Michael O. Leavitt, Secretary

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

500 Day Plan - 250 Day Update

The 500-Day Plan serves as a management tool to guide Secretary Michael O. Leavitt's energies in fulfilling the President's vision of a healthier and more hopeful America. The plan is a personal expression of many of Secretary Leavitt's priorities and provides direction to the daily leadership and management of the Department of Health and Human Services.

The Plan is guided by ten principles that form the philosophical backbone for how the Secretary approaches and solves problems (see back cover). The Secretary applies these principles through specific strategies in the plan that will achieve significant progress for the American people over a 5,000-day horizon.

This 250-day update continues to reflect the values in the original 500-day plan of a health care system based on access and affordability, wellness, prevention and personal responsibility, and advancement of innovation and technology.

Transform the Health System

vision

In 5,000 days, the Secretary sees a nation in which..

All Americans have access to basic health insurance at an affordable price. Health care and insurance markets are competitive and open to everyone.

The under-served have ready access to a network of care, and sustainable government subsidies are provided on the basis of age, disability, and economic situation.

Inequalities in health care are reduced and people have access to basic health care in their communities.

Information about the quality and price of health care is widely available. Americans have a sense of ownership about their health care and they have incentives to choose the best quality care at the lowest price.

Advances in health information technology enable doctors, patients, hospitals, laboratories, and pharmacies to communicate more effectively with one another.

Health records are linked through an interoperable system that protects privacy. Immediate access to information reduces medical errors, informs effective treatment decisions, and helps control costs.

Medical treatment is personal, predictive, preventive, participatory, and payable.

Wellness and prevention are sought as actively as treatment. The incidence and prevalence of many diseases and health conditions are reduced through preventive action.

Comprehensive, personalized, and early detection strategies increase healthy life potential:

- More cancers are preventable and curable.
- Obesity and its consequences are reduced.
- Causes of mental, neurological, and behavioral diseases are better understood and managed.

Research objectives are shaped by health care needs. Scientific advances benefit people, reducing the burden of chronic diseases and reducing risks from biological, chemical, and radiological and nuclear threats.

Commonsense medical liability reform makes health care more affordable and accessible.

Improved regulatory processes make safe and effective new drugs, procedures, and technology available in less time and at half the current cost. Information about advances is proactively communicated to providers and patients.

Transform the Health System (continued)

strategy

In the next 500 days, the Secretary will concentrate on.....

Implementing the President's Affordable Choices Initiative by working with members of Congress and Governors across the nation to support innovative State solutions that will give more Americans access to basic health insurance.

Fostering growth in the number of health savings accounts as a low-cost insurance alternative.

Supporting community-based approaches to reduce health disparities that affect racial, ethnic, and under-served populations adversely.

Fulfilling the President's goals for expanding community health care availability.

Working with health-care businesses, state, and local leadership to create a next-generation, health-care infrastructure.

Empowering consumers by working with purchasers, insurance providers, and the health care industry to provide full information about pricing and the quality of care.

Advancing health information technology by establishing standards for interoperability, privacy, and data exchange.

Encouraging employers and other purchasers of health care to implement the four cornerstones of value-driven health care, so that more than 60% of the marketplace uses health IT, cost, quality, and value incentives as part of their purchasing criteria.

Supporting utilization of health information breakthroughs by using the buying power of government-paid health care, and by encouraging purchasers to buy health insurance plans that incorporate use of value-based information.

Encouraging consumers and providers to stimulate efficiency in the market so increases in the cost of health care more

closely approximate other parts of the economy.

Establishing early detection and prevention strategies and promoting the rapid translation of scientific research into affordable, reliable, and safer treatments.

Improving the clinical research network to advance more effective prevention, early diagnosis, and treatment of disease.

Building interdisciplinary research teams that combine skills and knowledge from the biological, physical, and social sciences to yield biomedical insights.

Creating an integrated network of privacy-protected population data, genetic information, and public health records to accelerate discoveries that will define an individual's risk of disease, response to treatment, and likelihood of side effects.

Implementing a comprehensive plan for obesity research that will provide individuals and families with sound, evidence-based methods for preventing and reducing obesity.

Preventing new HIV infections by encouraging abstinence before marriage and helping individuals, especially mothers and their newborns, know their HIV status.

Launching public health campaigns designed to encourage children and teenagers to exercise and make healthier choices.

Convening the first meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee on Physical Activity, and establishing the first physical activity guidelines for Americans.

Facilitating the Drug Safety Oversight Board's objective to monitor and respond to post-market adverse drug incidents.

Advocating for medical liability reform.

Modernize Medicare and Medicaid

vision

In 5,000 days, the Secretary sees a nation in which..

Medicare and Medicaid are modernized to provide financially sustainable high-quality health care.

States have flexibility to tailor Medicaid benefits according to need, allowing millions more to obtain insurance.

Medicare and Medicaid provide expanded choices of plans and treatments.

All children in need are covered by health insurance and receive health care.

Seniors and people with disabilities can be cared for in their home or community at their option.

Americans understand the growing need to reform and take control of entitlement spending.

Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries are cost-conscious consumers.

Medicare and Medicaid are leaders in use of advanced technologies and performance measures.

strategy

In the next 500 days, the Secretary will concentrate on.....

Advocating for the five-year renewal of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) to be funded at appropriate levels and to remain focused on children in need.

Leading collaborative development and use of health information technology, quality measurement, and pay-for-performance.

Working with Congress in a bipartisan way to build support for Medicare and Medicaid entitlement reform.

Continuing the early success of Medicare Part D by ensuring eligible individuals enroll in the program and that beneficiaries can seamlessly access their benefits.

Implementing and extending new tools in Medicaid to ensure that program dollars cover the maximum number of people, make consumers more cost-conscious, and allow home and community care for the elderly and persons with disabilities.

Eliminating inappropriate financing mechanisms that weaken the Medicaid program.

Creating workable methods of rewarding health providers for positive outcomes in the Medicare and Medicaid programs.

Secure the Homeland

vision In 5,000 days, the Secretary sees a nation in which..

Disaster response is seamless and rapid when needed anywhere in the United States.

Families, businesses, communities, and states know how to prepare themselves and help others.

All Americans benefit from a disease monitoring system that provides early warning.

Surge manufacturing capacity and stockpiles of medical countermeasures are sufficient.

strategy In the next 500 days, the Secretary will concentrate on.....

Working with states, tribes, and communities to enhance preparedness for the public health consequences of a terrorist attack, a natural disaster, or an influenza pandemic.

Improving public understanding of how to prevent and mitigate the health consequences of disasters.

Preparing for a potential influenza pandemic through the development of local, state, and federal planning, and by conducting preparedness exercises as part of a continuous quality improvement strategy.

Developing a deployable mass-casualty care capability to enhance medical surge capacity in response to a variety of threat scenarios, including an influenza pandemic.

Assessing the emergency response capabilities of local and state public health departments, and using risk-based investment to enhance emergency preparedness.

Working with state and local governments to provide disaster victims with coordinated enrollment and delivery of health care services when disasters incapacitate traditional program infrastructure.

Aligning the force structure and deployment readiness of the United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps with current needs.

Working to build a disease monitoring system that provides early warning of naturally occurring or terrorist-induced outbreaks of infectious disease.

Developing the libraries of influenza virus reference strategies to accelerate vaccine production.

Increasing domestic vaccine manufacturing capacity to be able to provide every American with pandemic influenza vaccine within six months of beginning commercial-scale vaccine production.

Enhancing the content and readiness of the Strategic National Stockpile and the ability to distribute it effectively.

Ensuring the availability of needed medical countermeasures.

Continuing to work with the international community on surveillance, training, and other collaborative efforts with other nations, including South Africa, Mexico, and Canada.

Protect Life and Human Dignity

vision In 5,000 days, the Secretary sees a nation in which..

Children are protected from abuse and neglect.

Seniors and persons with disabilities are cared for with dignity and respect.

Faith-based and community groups have equal access to government grants.

Government policies foster self-reliance and reward work.

The values of protection of life and sexual abstinence outside of marriage are supported by public policies and taught to future generations.

Family interests are protected and marriages strengthened.

strategy In the next 500 days, the Secretary will concentrate on.....

Furthering the President's New Freedom Initiative to promote participation by all Americans with disabilities, including mental disabilities, in their communities.

Supporting a culture of life and family in domestic and international policies.

Streamlining the foster care system to speed the placement of foster children in adoptive homes and removing barriers to foster care services and placements between the federal government and the states.

Helping parents and families understand the importance of a stimulating environment and cognitive development in the earliest years of life, through enhanced HHS initiatives and collaboration with the U.S. Department of Education.

Supporting the First Lady's initiatives on Helping America's Youth and Women's Health and Wellness.

Strengthening Head Start through enhanced coordination with state and local agencies.

Promoting economic self-sufficiency among families receiving welfare through enhanced work requirements and support, healthy marriage education, and fatherhood initiatives.

Expanding choices for individuals in federal programs by increasing participation of faith-based and community groups.

Improve the Human Condition Around the World

vision

In 5,000 days, the Secretary sees a nation in which..

More of the world's people live in freedom.

Goodwill is fostered through health care.

The United States is recognized as a leader among nations for caring and compassion.

The threat of pandemic influenza has been reduced and nations of the world are enhancing their preparedness.

HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria are reduced all around the world.

strategy

In the next 500 days, the Secretary will concentrate on.....

Collaborating worldwide through partnerships with governments and the private sector around health issues.

Supporting the President's America's Initiative by training health professionals in the Latin American region.

Providing patient care for poor Latin American populations.

Establishing a regional training school in Panama for Latin American health care workers.

Supporting emerging democracies with health diplomacy.

Working collaboratively to plan and prepare for the threat of pandemic influenza.

Expanding the international network of early warning infectious disease surveillance.

Implementing on schedule the goals of the President's Emergency Plan for HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria relief.

Secretary Leavitt's *Principles*

Care for the truly needy, foster self-reliance

National standards, neighborhood solutions

Collaboration, not polarization

Solutions transcend political boundaries

Markets before mandates

Protect privacy

Science for facts, process for priorities

Reward results, not programs

Change a heart, change a Nation

Value life