

JAMES H. DOUGLAS  
GOVERNOR



State of Vermont  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

**Official Statement of the Governor**  
**Friday, February 9, 2007**

## **Support for the Four Cornerstones of Value-driven Health Care**

America's healthcare system has an unprecedented opportunity to lay new foundations for better patient care, higher quality service, and increased value. In addition, the landmark healthcare reforms Vermont has instituted offer other states, and our federal partners, a model as we seek to make healthcare accessible and affordable for every American.

To help realize this opportunity, Vermont is committed to supporting the following actions, among others, and will continue to encourage health insurance plans, third party administrators, providers, and others with whom we work to take consistent actions to achieve these goals.

These steps are the foundation for a value-driven healthcare system that delivers continued progress in medical care and good health for our employees and for all Americans.

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### **SUPPORT HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

Health information technology is a key aspect of the Vermont Blueprint for Health, the state's effort to better manage chronic diseases and slow the rapid increase in health care costs.

The Blueprint's Chronic Care Information System will enhance the ability of health care providers to manage chronic illnesses for patients by giving providers the right information at the right time.

In order to enable the availability and secure exchange of healthcare information to improve patient care, we will continue to pursue interoperable health information systems and products through our Vermont Information Technology Leaders initiative.

As the state and its partners implement, acquire, or upgrade health information technology systems and products, we will work toward systems that meet interoperability standards. In maintaining or exchanging information, patient privacy will be appropriately protected, as required by law.

**PROVIDE QUALITY INFORMATION**

To support knowledge and comparison of the quality of care delivered by healthcare providers, we will continue to implement our programs—like hospital report cards—to measure quality and make this information available to Vermonters.

Vermont is currently developing the Vermont Patient Safety Program which will focus on public reporting, statewide analysis of patient safety trends and a focus on finding solutions.

Vermont will also support national consensus efforts to increase the availability of consistent quality measures in these areas.

**PROVIDE PRICING INFORMATION**

To support knowledge and comparison of the cost or price of care, we will continue to implement, and request that those with which we contract implement, programs to measure healthcare quality, as well as the overall cost or price of their care, and make this information available to enrollees in their health plans.

As consensus develops on uniform approaches for measuring and reporting cost or price information for the benefit of consumers, we will use these approaches and request that those with which we contract do the same.

We will promote the availability of cost or price information together with quality information, whenever possible, to help employees focus on value.

**PROMOTE QUALITY AND EFFICIENCY OF CARE**

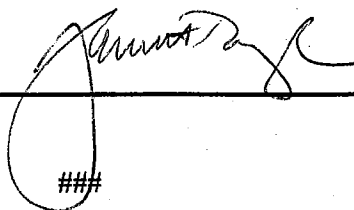
We will continue to develop approaches that encourage and facilitate high-quality and cost-effective health care, and contract with entities that share these goals.

For example, Under the Vermont Blueprint for Health, physicians are collaborating with the Office of Vermont Health Access (OVHA) to adopt common clinical guidelines for both the Blueprint and OVHA's disease management program. With input from insurance providers, we anticipate that these guidelines will be used to establish common measures for standards of clinical practice.

Through the Blueprint, Vermont is developing new payment recommendations to reward providers for high-quality care and patient wellness. Other approaches may include the offering of consumer-directed health plan products.

Over time, this information can be used to improve patient care and enhance the effectiveness of our healthcare system by increasing the availability of uniform and comparable information with which all stakeholders can make informed decisions.

Signed by Governor James H. Douglas:



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