

Building Blocks for Health Care Reform

- The good health of all Americans is a national priority.
- The health care system should work equally well for all Americans.
- The best elements of the U.S. health care system must be enhanced.
- Improvements in treatment and prevention are a moral imperative.
- Reform should be based on a broadly shared set of values that represent an American consensus and serve the needs of patients.

Health Care Reform Principles

- All Americans must have access to quality, affordable health coverage.
- Health care delivery must be centered on the patient and on the patient-physician relationship.
- Disease prevention and wellness must become a focus of our health care system.
- Efficiencies in the delivery of care should be pursued.
- Comparative clinical effectiveness research should be implemented.
- Better information and communications are critical.
- Health care reform must promote medical progress and advance the delivery of high quality care.
- An open process is key to building a broad American consensus.



Reforming U.S. Health Care

Ensuring Better Patient Care



Working together for a healthier world™

Eight Health Care Reform Principles

The current U.S. health care system, based on a private sector, competitive model, provides access to the most innovative care in the world. However, it's a "sick care" system and not a wellness system.

U.S. health care reform is essential and must begin by preserving patient choice, providing access to the latest therapies, rewarding medical innovation, and improving quality and efficiency of care.

These eight principles provide a solid foundation for achieving patient-centered health reform.

1. All Americans must have access to quality, affordable health coverage.

- This requires multiple approaches, including expanding the use of existing programs, building on employer-sponsored health benefits, strengthening publicly subsidized programs and empowering patients by providing them with greater choices.

2. Health care delivery must be centered on the patient and on the patient-physician relationship.

- This relationship is fundamental to effective health care delivery. It must be strengthened to assure patients access to treatments that meet their individual health care needs.
- Health care payment or reimbursement should not deter access to medically necessary care.
- Increased coordination of care will help reduce redundancies and focus more effectively on the patient.

3. Disease prevention and wellness must become a focus of our health care system.

- Reform should include strong incentives for preventive health and wellness, and the coordination of care for chronic diseases.
- Effective disease management and enhanced patient education should be utilized to improve care and better manage costs.

4. Efficiencies in the delivery of care should be pursued, including the broad adoption of health information technology.

- Electronic medical records should be adopted and appropriate electronic sharing of clinical information should be allowed, subject to strong privacy protection and data security.
- Market forces and competition should be the primary mechanism for managing costs.
- Medical liability reforms should be implemented to reduce overuse of health care resources.

5. Scientifically sound comparative clinical effectiveness (CCE) research should be implemented as part of health care reform.

- A national center for CCE should be created to study the full range of health care treatments and diverse patient populations.
- The center should generate data and knowledge that facilitates the clear understanding of comparative clinical effectiveness of treatment options, separate from cost considerations.

6. Better information and communications are critical to improving health care delivery.

- Americans should have access to more information about medical problems and potential treatments so they can better understand their options and talk with their doctors.
- Americans with low health literacy need additional assistance to help them better understand their options.

7. Health care reform must promote medical progress and advance the delivery of high quality care.

- High quality care must be the standard for all Americans — disparities must be eliminated.
- High quality care must reward innovation, maintain and improve overall patient outcomes, and prioritize patient safety.

8. Achieving meaningful health care reform requires an open and deliberative process to build a broad American consensus.

- The interests of all stakeholders should be discussed, considered and reconciled.
- Partnerships, built around patient-centered care, are the best way to ensure broad-based, successful reforms.

Through these principles we can work together to reform the U.S. health care system so that patients have access to new and innovative treatments and achieve better health outcomes.

We look forward to collaborating on solutions that achieve meaningful reforms and result in better patient health.