

NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON HEALTH CARE REFORM

Sponsored by Mayo Clinic

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On March 9-11, 2008, I attended the National Symposium on Health Care Reform sponsored by Mayo Clinic and held in Leesburg, VA. The theme of the program activities blended with an initiative entitled "Your Voice New Vision" intended to ensure the future of quality patient care.

There were nearly 400 attendees representing every type of stakeholder: physicians, nurses, big business, small business, patients, insurers, medical institutions, public policy makers, etc. This was a culmination of several smaller regional meetings. Using the concepts for providers of care to consider, the challenge to the group was to define priorities for the newly elected president/congress to incorporate into the future and define priorities for the private sector to take.

Attached are the following results of the conference:

- a) Concepts for Providers of Care to Consider
- b) President/Congress Action Steps
- c) Private Sector Action Steps

All of this information and much more is available at:
<http://www.mayoclinic.org/healthpolicycenter/>

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Private Sector Action Steps

- 1. Benefits to Improve Health**
Define a minimum standard benefit package that realigns the health system toward improving health in addition to treating disease.
- 2. Portable Patient Record**
Create a patient-controlled personal electronic health record that includes personalized information tailored to their condition.
- 3. High-Cost Service Program**
Develop care programs for high-impact/high-cost services (end-of-life care, chronic diseases, etc.)
- 4. Coordinating Care Team**
Incent delivery model which provides defined care coordinator for chronic and acute conditions (i.e. medical home).
- 5. No Pay Adverse Events**
Stop paying for “never” events (operating on the wrong body part, etc.).
- 6. Non-Physician Providers**
Realign care models that incorporate non-physician care providers.
- 7. Patient-Centered Care**
Center care around individuals and families, and involve them in all aspects of care.
- 8. Payment Reform**
Make the case for payment reform with properly aligned incentives (outcomes, prevention, wellness, “virtual” appointments, etc.).
- 9. Reward Good Outcomes**
Reward providers who generate good outcomes.
- 10. Set National Goals**
Agree to a small set of national health care goals: reduce injuries, reduce costs, reduce inpatient hospitalizations over three years.
- 11. Transparency**
Publicly report quality/performance results, based around national standards.
- 12. Universal Clinical IT**
Universal use of interoperable electronic clinical information technology systems (systems that can share information).

Concepts for Providers of Care to Consider

- Center care around **the needs of the patient**.
- Hold all sectors in health care accountable for **reducing waste and inefficiencies**.
- **Increase** quality and patient satisfaction. **Decrease** medical errors, costs and waste.
- **Measure and publicly display** outcomes, patient satisfaction scores and costs as a whole. Create competition around results through pricing and quality transparency.
- Provide complete and accurate information so **patients can make informed decisions** about their care.
- Develop a **definition of value** based upon the needs and preferences of patients, measurable outcomes, safety and service, compared to the cost of care over time. Build consensus on what is considered value in health care.
- Realign the health system toward **improving health rather than treating disease**.
- Form **coordinated systems** to deliver effective and appropriate care to patients.
- Create a **trusted mechanism to synthesize scientific, clinical and medical information** for both patients and providers. An independent, credible group board organization to analyze scientific, clinical and medical information for everyone.
- Develop a “portfolio of incentives” to **encourage teamwork** among health care professionals.

President/Congress Action Steps

1	Insurance For All Assure/mandate insurance coverage for all.
2	Pay For Value Direct Medicare to pay for value/outcomes/prevention using innovative payment models.
3	Care Coordination Reward care coordination (whether provided by primary care, specialist or other caregiver)
4	Interoperable EMR Require all providers to have interoperable electronic medical records within time certain (4-5 years) with patient accessibility.
5	Evidence-based Standards Establish national care standards using evidence-based medicine for as many conditions as possible.
6	Federal Health Reserve Implement an independent "Federal Health Reserve" to set rules/standards to promote value in health care.
7	Insurance Options Promote individual-based insurance as an option along with employer-based insurance.