

TYPES OF HEALTH CARE PLANS

List of Resources

Single payer plans

Physicians for a National Health Program: <http://www.pnhp.org/>

This is a non-profit research and education organization of 18,000 physicians, medical students and health professionals who support single-payer national health insurance.

Health Care Now: <http://www.healthcare-now.org/>

This is a website designed to support the *Expanded & Improved Medicare for All Act* (HR 676), sponsored by Rep. John Conyers (D-MI). The bill establishes a national universal health insurance program that is a publicly financed and privately delivered healthcare system. It would expand the already existing Medicare program to all U.S. residents, and all residents living in U.S. territories.

Free market options

The Heritage Foundation:

<http://www.heritage.org/research/reports/2010/08/getting-health-care-reform-right>

This policy center promotes the repeal of the *Affordable Care Act*, and recommends that Congress should transform the health care system into one that empowers individuals and families, not Washington, to control more of their health care decisions. The Heritage Foundation's health care policy is based on premium support and defined contributions for private health insurance.

American Enterprise Institute: <http://www.aei.org/topic/health-care-reform>

Under the AEI's "defined contribution" approach, health coverage would be provided through competing private insurance plans; government's involvement would come through the provision of a fixed financial contribution toward the purchase of insurance by each beneficiary. The AEI proposal for health care reform requires personal responsibility for costs and government guarantees of continuous-coverage protection.

Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget:

<http://crfb.org/document/options-controlling-federal-health-care-costs>

The CRFB, part of the New America Foundation, is a bipartisan, non-profit organization committed to educating the public about issues that have significant fiscal policy impact. The Committee is made up of some of the nation's leading budget experts. Its health care reform proposals include implementing MedPAC payment reforms that would reduce Medicare physician payments, except for primary care services.

Various plans and systems

Kaiser Family Foundation: <http://www.kff.org/healthreform/sidebyside.cfm>

This site is an excellent resource for comparison of alternative health care reform proposals. It includes an interactive side-by-side comparison that provides detailed summaries of the final new health reform law, as well as more than a dozen other comprehensive proposals put forward during the year-long reform debate in Congress. The online tool allows users to compare the law and other bills, plans and proposals with one another across key characteristics.

National Alliance for Health Care Reform: <http://www.allhealth.org/issues.asp?wi=16>

This site offers an array of resources and viewpoints, in a number of formats that compare and describe various health insurance reform proposals. A nonpartisan, nonprofit group, the Alliance does not take positions on legislation. Senator Jay Rockefeller of West Virginia is the founder and honorary chairman. Former Executive Vice President of AAFP, Robert Graham, MD, of the George Washington University and the Aligning Forces for Quality program, is the board chairman.

Center for Studying Health System Change: <http://www.hschange.com/index.cgi?func=pubs&what=21>

The nonpartisan Center for Studying Health System Change (HSC) conducts health policy research and analysis focused on the national and local market forces driving changes in the health system. The site contains numerous issue briefs and research papers on diverse health care delivery and payment issues.

Commonwealth Fund: <http://www.commonwealthfund.org/Topics/Payment-Reform.aspx>

The mission of The Commonwealth Fund is to promote a high performing health care system that achieves better access, improved quality, and greater efficiency, particularly for society's most vulnerable. The Fund supports independent research on health care issues and makes grants to improve health care practice and policy. The Fund has a strong bias in favor of primary care and has produced several reports that demonstrate its value to payers and patients.

Health Affairs: <http://content.healthaffairs.org/cgi/collection>

This is a multidisciplinary journal covering a wide range of health issues, including: access to care, health spending, quality, Medicare, Medicaid, prescription drug coverage and costs, physician practice, nursing trends, mental health, malpractice and health law, insurance reform, hospitals, global health, and disparities in health care, and more.

Academy Health: <http://www.academyhealth.org/Publications/BriefList.cfm?navItemNumber=534>

This is the website for a professional society for health services researchers and health policy analysts. It supports the development of health services research, facilitates the use of the best available research and information, provides high quality policy and technical assistance and offers educational programs that advance the use of policy analysis and research. The policy briefs and research papers cover a variety of health care delivery and insurance proposals.

Georgetown University Health Policy Institute: <http://hpi.georgetown.edu/>

The Health Policy Institute is a multi-disciplinary group of faculty and staff dedicated to conducting research on key issues in health policy and health services research. Institute research focuses on issues relating to health care financing, the uninsured, federal health insurance reforms, quality of care and outcomes research, mental health services research, and the impact of changes in the health care market on providers and patients.

Urban Institute: http://www.urban.org/health_policy/index.cfm

The Urban Institute's Health Policy Center analyzes trends and underlying causes of changes in health insurance coverage, access to care, and use of health care services by the entire US population. The Center's web site provides extensive research and analysis of key health issues including: private insurance, the uninsured, Medicaid, Medicare and SCHIP, disability and long-term care, vulnerable populations and health care reform, in addition to many others.

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation: <http://www.rwjf.org/healthpolicy/>

As the nation's largest philanthropy devoted solely to the public's health, the RWJ Foundation considers the pressing health and health care problems of American society. The research focuses on improving both the *health* of everyone in America, and their *health care*—how it's delivered, how it's paid for, and how well it does for patients and their families. Their goal is to invest in improving systems through which people receive care and in fostering environments that promote health and prevent disease and injury. Their health research areas include public health, coverage, work force and quality improvement.

Government websites

The White House: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/healthreform>

This is the Administration's website that includes descriptions of various features of the health reform legislation. The picture with the President on the initial page includes AAFP's then-President, Dr. Roland Goertz.

Department of Health and Human Services: <http://www.healthcare.gov/>

This is the website for HHS that describes in more detail major elements of health reform implementation.

Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC):

http://www.medpac.gov/documents/10142011_medpac_sgr_letter.pdf

The Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC) is an independent Congressional agency established in 1997 to advise the U.S. Congress on issues affecting the Medicare program. The Commission's statutory mandate is to advise Congress on payments to private health plans participating in Medicare and providers in Medicare's traditional fee-for-service program, and to analyze access to care, quality of care, and other issues affecting Medicare. MedPAC consistently supports better payment for primary care services.