

Fundamentals for Health Care Reform

The New Hampshire Medical Society supports policy which will ensure access to high-quality health care for all Granite Staters that is cost-effective and sustainable.

Health care policy should uphold the following fundamental principles to ensure:

- A viable and comprehensive health care safety net for the elderly, children and low-income Americans, which includes coverage for preventive care, substance use disorders, reproductive health and mental health services.
- Individuals currently covered do not become uninsured, and that low/moderate income patients are able to secure affordable and adequate coverage.
- Vital patient protections in the health insurance marketplace, including benefits regardless of pre-existing conditions, family history, age, gender, sexual orientation, race, national origin or disability, and maintaining key insurance market reforms, such as guaranteed issue of insurance, and parental coverage for young adults.

Health care reform implementation should strive to achieve:

- **Patient-centered care** – Provide health care that is patient-centric and physician-directed. Promote the maximum possible choice in patients' selection of physicians. Put the patient first and protect the sanctity of the physician-patient relationship, particularly respecting the physician's autonomy as an advocate for the patient.
- **Public health** – Support a strong and vital public health infrastructure that can collaborate fully with physicians and the health care system to advance population health. Emphasize prevention and provide systemic support for healthier lifestyles, and incentives for reducing identified health risks.
- **High quality** – Improve quality and minimize errors by relying upon evidence-based medicine, benchmarking, and outcome measures driven by clinicians and administrators working together.
- **Cost effectiveness** – Restrain rising health care costs at a system-wide level in the least intrusive way possible. Stress pooling of clinical risk, rather than medical underwriting.
- **Transparency** – Promote transparency of health care cost, quality, and outcome data. Insurance options should be simple and fair, such that every participant can understand it and perceive that its financial burden and benefits are distributed fairly.
- **Workforce Stability** – Promote favorable working conditions and a fair payment structure to attract and retain high quality individuals in primary care, specialty care, nursing and allied health professions to meet the needs of New Hampshire's population.

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Health care reform implementation should strive to achieve (*cont'd*):

- **Reduced administrative burden** – Reduce administrative policies and regulations that detract from patient care and increase clinician costs. Billing systems should be streamlined and consistent, and payment systems prompt and outcomes oriented.
- **Clinically focused information technology** – Make information technology more user-friendly and focused on clinical matters, rather than financial matters. It should facilitate rather than impede communication and work flow among clinicians, patients, and health care facilities.
- **Novel models of delivery** – Continue the advancement of delivery reforms and new physician-led payment models to achieve better outcomes, higher quality and lower spending trends.
- **Liability reform** – Incorporate common sense medical liability reform in order to restrain defensive medicine and promote process improvement and patient safety.
- **Public support** – Be sustainable by including everyone as a contributor to the system and, therefore, a stakeholder in supporting it.