



### Health Care Reform: Seven Key Principles

1. **Provide universal coverage.** Enact systematic health care reform guaranteeing access to affordable health care for all individuals from the health care providers of their choice.
2. **Eliminate health disparities.** Dedicate more resources to assuring health equity and eliminating the disparities that persist in vulnerable populations. Payment for preventive interventions should include psychosocial initiatives and innovative care models.
3. **Focus health care resources on wellness, disease prevention and primary care.** Promote a greater supply and usage of primary care professionals as defined by the Institute of Medicine, including certified nurse-midwives (CNMs) and certified midwives (CMs).
4. **Improve care integration and coordination.** Promote seamless consultation, collaboration and referral among providers and institutions to improve consumer access to health care services and to their personal health information.
5. **Align payment systems with evidence-based practice and optimal outcomes rather than on maximizing billable interventions.** Promote collection and transparent reporting of standardized performance measures by all providers and institutions.
6. **Improve women's access to high quality care.**
  - Recognize that women play a key role in the health of the family and they often access the health care system through their reproductive health care provider.
  - Preserve direct access to the full range of reproductive and primary care services for women of all ages from the providers of their choice.
  - Improve quality and value by strategically expanding the use of CNMs and CMs as integral members of the health care team by ensuring licensed independent provider status, universal access to hospital privileges and equal payment for professional services in all 50 states and US territories.
  - Educate more midwives by expanding funding for scholarships, clinical sites and loan repayment.
  - Expand funding for midwifery research, demonstration projects and collaborative training of midwives and physician residents. Provide incentives for innovative delivery models such as community-based birth centers and group prenatal care.
7. **Significantly improve maternal and infant health.** Promote high quality, evidence-based maternity care emphasizing normal birth and the appropriate use of technology and medical interventions. Increase access, within appropriate care systems, to vaginal birth after cesarean and out-of-hospital birth. Focus on reducing infant and maternal morbidity and mortality and the incidence of preterm birth, low birth weight and cesarean section.

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