



MEDICAL SOCIETY OF DELAWARE UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE TASK FORCE

PRINCIPLES BY WHICH TO EVALUATE HEALTH CARE REFORM PROPOSALS

The following list of principles has been developed by the Medical Society of Delaware Universal Health Care Task Force during its meetings held in 2007 – 2008. The principles are to be used as a mechanism by which to evaluate universal health care plan proposals at the federal and/or state levels. These principles encompass the core ideologies believed by this Task Force and the members of the Medical Society of Delaware as necessary to have in any universal health care reform plan.

COVERAGE

1. Universal health coverage is needed in order to provide access to care for all who live or work in Delaware.
2. A patient's ability to pay should not be a barrier to obtaining medically necessary care, including access to preventive services.
3. An adequate, basic health care plan, which includes catastrophic coverage, must be available for everyone.
4. Individuals should have the ability to purchase additional coverage to supplement the basic health care plan.
5. Every person should be required to have an individual health care plan.
6. Exclusions based on pre-existing conditions should be eliminated from the health care plan.

DELIVERY SYSTEM

7. All individuals should be required to have a medical home.
8. Health information technology systems which are standardized and interoperable should be in place to ensure that accurate information is efficiently available to the appropriate individuals in the health care system.
9. Administrative, clinical, and legal systems should be streamlined and standardized to improve efficiency, reduce costs, and eliminate barriers to care.
10. Procedures should be in place to monitor and improve outcomes, process, and safety of patient care.

FINANCE

11. Sufficient funds should be available for medical research, education, and public health initiatives to ensure continued advancements in patient care.
12. The health care plan should incorporate patient responsibility, reward healthy lifestyles, and provide for the appropriate use of the health care system.
13. For the system to be sustainable, all providers and facilities should be reimbursed on a standard established rate for inpatient and outpatient care.
14. The medical home should be reimbursed at a level sufficient to ensure organization and coordination of care for all patients.
15. Financing mechanisms should include subsidies to ensure that the health care system is equitable across all income levels.
16. There should be shared responsibility in the financing of the health system from both public and private sources.
17. The cost of medical liability should not be borne solely by health care providers.

ADMINISTRATION AND GOVERNANCE

18. Development of the universal health care system and oversight of its ongoing administration will require the collaboration of many stakeholders. We feel strongly this should include the input of physicians.

New Castle County Town Meeting held on April 30, 2008
Kent/Sussex County Town Meeting held on May 21, 2008
Approved by MSD Board of Trustees at its meeting on June 12, 2008
Joint News Conference with Delaware Healthcare Association/MSD on January 15,
2009 @ MSD office.