



HEALTHCARE ASSOCIATES in Medicine, P.C.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Breaking Down The Myths - What Is The "Public Option?"

As one of the top health care providers for residents in New York City, we at Healthcare Associates in Medicine, P.C. have closely monitored the ongoing attempts to reform national health care. In recent weeks the debate over these proposals has ratcheted up on both sides of the political spectrum. Particularly, questions have arisen regarding President Obama's support for a "public option." Supporters of reform argue that including the public option is crucial to obtain improvement while detractors say that they won't sign off on any legislation unless this option is eliminated. But what exactly is a "public option?" In a series of discussions we intend to continue over the next few weeks, we will help explain this reform, the separate elements involved and the likely consequences of implementing the different claims.

In simple terms, a public option is an alternative to current insurance coverage. It is a health coverage insurance plan that would be run by the government in an attempt to compete with private insurance companies. It allows for universal health care coverage for all Americans because, if they aren't yet covered, they would be lumped into this system and thus have medical access. Proponents of this element argue that this is the only true way to insure that every American has health care. Opponents, meanwhile, question how the public option will be paid for. With an estimated cost of over \$1-trillion for the next 10 years, paying for this reform could prove to be difficult.

So what is likely to occur if the public option stays on the table? There is the chance that employers who provide their employees with health benefits will then dump them from their system, knowing the government run system will pick them up instead. There is also the likelihood that the government underwritten option, with its inherent unfair advantages in the market, will make competition moot and soon become the only choice available.

The growing effort to reform health care in the United States is a primary concern for our physicians and the patients we treat, and, as such, we will continue to monitor it closely. The physicians and staff of Healthcare Associates in Medicine are dedicated to providing every patient with the appropriate care and treatment based on their personal condition. This is accomplished through coordination of service and by aggressively representing each patient's personal circumstances whereby their care is our primary concern.

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