



HEALTHCARE ASSOCIATES in Medicine, PC

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

How to cut health care costs - NOW! (Part 2 of 3)

In recent weeks, we at Healthcare Associates in Medicine have kept a close eye on the ongoing discussion regarding health care reform. While we believe change is needed and ultimately inevitable, we also know that there are many ways to go about completing this reform. There are already numerous methods available to cut health care costs. It is just a matter of implementing these changes. Before radically revamping the current system, why doesn't President Obama address the issues already at hand? Last week we advocated for the finalization of the National Plan Identifier regulation, a step that could save physician practices almost \$10 billion over the next decade.

Another way to cut costs is for the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to finalize a rule for electronic health insurance claim attachments. Without an official rule, health plans are slow to offer electronic claim attachment options and vendors then have to wait to produce supporting software products. Electronic claims attachments would help reduce the amount of lost attachments and speed up claims adjudication while simultaneously cutting the follow-up time for providers and health plans.

Successfully implementing this measure alone could potentially save practices approximately another \$10 billion over the following decade! By implementing both of these proposals, then, health care costs can be cut by almost \$20 billion! With health care costs making up 42 cents out of every dollar spent in the industry, can President Obama and his constituents really afford *not* to try to implement these changes?

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We are aware that these are not the only problems that need to be addressed. But by tackling these issues sooner rather than later the health care industry can go a long way to achieving real reform. Next week, we will reveal yet another aspect of health care that can save more money in the long run than both of these proposals combined!

The growing effort to reform health care in the United States is a primary concern for our physicians and the patients we treat. 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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