



HEALTHCARE ASSOCIATES in Medicine, PC

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

How to cut health care costs – NOW!

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. With or without President Obama's legislation, there are already a myriad of methods in which we can go about cutting health care costs. In the upcoming weeks we will discuss three of these elements.

The first one of these is to finalize the National Plan Identifier. Enacted by Congress in 1996, the department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has yet to release a single rule for a national health plan identifier. According to the Medical Group Management Association (MGMA), health-plan products have multiple identifiers as they are known under varying names. A basic method of identifying these insurance products, then, would improve the routing of health care transactions and the administration of health benefits. If this regulation is enforced properly, it would eliminate the need for medical practices to contact the insurance companies before or after service to confirm that the contractual agreement was fulfilled.

It is estimated that with the simple implementation of this element alone, medical practices can save approximately \$10 billion over the next decade. This is something that can and should be done now, regardless of which way the health care debate ultimately falls. In the following weeks we will discuss other methods for cutting costs, with the ultimate savings potential approximately in the \$40 billion range over the next ten years.

The growing efforts to reform health care in the United States are 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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