



What's NOT in Health Reform

NOT a government takeover

- This is not a government takeover. Over 20 million people will be buying coverage from private insurance companies. The federal government is providing tax credits to both small businesses and individuals to help them afford health insurance.

NO public option

- There is no government program that sets rates. Rather, the exchanges will be comprised of plans offered by private insurers.

Congressman and their personal staff is NOT exempt from purchasing within the exchange

- Congressman and their personal staffs will purchase health insurance inside the exchange. In fact, the exchanges are based on the Federal Employee Health Benefit Program that is currently available to staff.
- Committee staff and leadership staff were inadvertently not included in this. The committee staff did try to fix this during the amendment process, but were unable to.

The individual mandate is NOT about the Government telling you what to do

- The individual mandate is not about telling people what to do, but rather about making the insurance pools work.
- Taking something as simple as removing pre-existing conditions leads us to asking our citizens to take personal responsibility. If you remove pre-existing conditions and do not have a requirement for citizen's to purchase health insurance, this will lead to only the sick (those with preexisting conditions) purchasing health insurance, which will increase the number and amount of claims, resulting in increased premiums for those who already have insurance. Premiums will likely increase so significantly that those who are younger and healthier will opt to drop coverage, resulting in premiums increasing again and the cycle continuing. This is called a "death spiral" in the insurance industry and they have indicated that in order to have the insurance reforms that both sides agree with they need some type of individual requirement or they will be driven out of business.

Health Savings Accounts ARE included

- Health Savings Accounts do meet the minimum creditable coverage definition and are therefore permissible in health reform. In fact, we anticipate the insurers will continue to offer these products both inside and outside of the exchanges.

You WILL NOT be forced into a new health plan

- There will be marketplaces both inside and outside of the exchange. People can choose where they want to buy health insurance. The tax credits for small business and individuals will be available in the exchange only. No one will be forced into the exchanges. As long as the plan meets minimum creditable coverage it will still exist. Typically all large employer plans meet the definitions. There may be variation in the small group and individual market, but with reform consumers will get more comprehensive plans.