

January 29, 2009

E-mail News

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About the Health Policy Center

The Mayo Clinic Health Policy Center is convening national thought leaders in a series of events to help develop a new consensus-driven vision for health care in America.

[About](#) the center

Health Policy Center Blog

Mayo Clinic Health Policy Center [Blog](#) continues to offer updates of Health Policy Center activities, and offers an opportunity to keep the health care reform conversation going. In addition, the blog contains links to presentations from and webcasts of events as

A periodic news update from the Mayo Clinic Health Policy Center

Recent Events

Policymakers Ask for Mayo Input on Health Care Reform

Last week, Denis Cortese, M.D., president and CEO of Mayo Clinic, and Jeff Korsmo, executive director of the Mayo Health Policy Center, met with members of Congress and the incoming administration about the need for health care reform. The Mayo Clinic leaders met with more than 15 key leaders, including House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif.; Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., chair of the Finance Committee; Rep. Pete Stark, D-Calif., chair of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Health; and Jeanne Lambrew, newly appointed deputy director of the White House Office of Health Reform.

"They all want to hear more from us as they move forward on reform," says Dr. Cortese. He added that members of Congress are especially interested in hearing from physicians. "We must keep the momentum going by sharing our perspective as policy positions are put forth."

Key issues of current focus include health care information technology, expansion of public insurance programs to cover the uninsured, and the concept of a U.S. Health Board.

Related Information: Health IT Recommendations

A group of health IT (HIT) experts who participated in the Mayo Clinic Health Policy Center [Health IT Forum](#) recommended how HIT systems could

well as questions that were submitted by participants. Log in and check it out.

help improve care and benefit patients. Among their recommendations:

- Individuals have the right to access their health and medical information. Individuals should have flexible choices about the use of that information.
- HIT networks/systems should be interoperable, standards-based and efficiently implemented.
- Establish a voluntary patient identifier.
- Create a reliable repository for patient information that providers across the nation could access.

[See executive summary](#) (PDF)

Links of Note

["Health Care Reform: Why We Cannot Afford to Fail"](#)

Dr. Cortese and Jeff Korsmo

Health Affairs Jan. 16

C-SPAN [Washington Journal Interview with Dr. Cortese](#)

Jan. 15

Upcoming Events

Symposium on Medical Education Reform April 2009

Registration is now open for the [National Symposium on Medical Education Reform](#) scheduled for April 26-28, 2009, at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn.

Participants will help build consensus on changes needed in medical education to support substantive, patient-centered national health care reform. Nationally recognized medical education experts will jump-start discussion at this highly participatory event. Do not delay in registering for

this event!

News

For recent articles about health care reform and the Health Policy Center, check our [news page](#) periodically. If you have articles that should be included, please send a note with the link to healthpolicycenter@mayo.edu.

Supporting the Health Policy Center

Mayo Clinic has already committed more than \$2 million to this multiyear endeavor. We have secured \$850,000 in philanthropic support. That commitment and support has allowed us, working collaboratively with more than 160 organizations, to begin to build the public and business mandate for change. Additional philanthropic support of at least \$1 million per year is needed to sustain this endeavor and ensure that the patient-centered cornerstones identified thus far continue to resonate as the health care reform discussions unfold in earnest in the months ahead.

We are looking for individuals, corporations and foundations willing to lend their vision and philanthropic support to these efforts. Please contact [Nora O'Sullivan](#) or [Josh Derr](#) for information on how you can contribute to the Mayo Clinic Health Policy Center.

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