

## Top Stories

### New Executive Director

Jeff Korsmo, chief administrative officer of Mayo Clinic in Rochester, will succeed Robert Smoldt as executive director of the Mayo Clinic Health Policy Center. He will assume the new role after the second Mayo Clinic National Symposium on Health Care Reform in March 2008. [Learn more.](#)

## Upcoming Events

### Symposium Update

The National Symposium on Health Care Reform on March 9-11, 2008, is filling fast. Openings are still available in all sectors: Academia, Business and Labor, Health Coverage, Health Care, Medical Industry, Patient Advocacy and Public Policy. Join 400 of the best minds in the country to hammer out health care reform solutions. [Register.](#)

### The Patient Voice in Health Care Reform

"My hope for American health care is that all people will be able to receive the level of care they need without having to fight the system."

"I would caution us to believe that one system will work for all."

[Your Voice, New Vision](#) is a national initiative to listen to patients, record their views on health care today, capture their vision for how it could be better and make those perspectives part of the health care reform debate. It is sponsored by a number of organizations, including Mayo Clinic Health Policy Center.

Your Voice, New Vision is going on the road to solicit views from patients in 9 cities across the country. A robust Web site will launch in January to seek online submissions. Comments from this initiative will be an integral part of the 2008 symposium.

### Health Reform Conference - Seattle

On November 19, representatives from the Mayo Clinic Health Policy Center participated in a day-long health reform conference hosted by Virginia Mason Medical Center and Group Health Cooperative in Seattle. More than 100 regional leaders from government, health care, insurance and business

## In the News

### *Tests of Dubious Value Drive Up Health Costs*

For all the talk about aging baby boomers bankrupting the U.S. health care system, the real cost culprits may be tests and treatments of dubious value, according to a government study.

[See Reuters story.](#)

## Recommendations

Over the last two years, Mayo Clinic Health Policy Center has convened more than 400 national thought leaders to help develop consensus-driven principles to guide the reform process.

[See their recommendations.](#)

## E-mail News

[Subscribe](#) to periodic updates from the Health Policy Center.

## 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.

participated in the event. [See participants.](#)

Senator Ron Wyden (Oregon) talked with participants by videoconference about his “Healthy Americans Act,” a bipartisan health reform effort. He commented, “We must overcome the gridlock of Congress. Most people think Washington, D.C. can't organize a two-car parade, let alone fix something as monumental as health care.”

The event made clear that many reform efforts currently underway in the Pacific Northwest are in concert with Mayo Clinic’s Health Policy Center principles. Participants said they came away from the day’s activities feeling more hopeful about the possibility for positive health reform in the coming years.

Information and insights gained from the conference will be added to other feedback being obtained around the country.

[About](#) the center