



How The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act Will Help Seniors

Lower Costs for American Seniors

- ✓ **Strengthen the Financial Health of Medicare**
 - The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act will establish a competitive system to reduce Medicare overpayments to private insurance companies, saving Medicare more than \$100 billion over 10 years. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act will also invest in fighting waste, fraud and abuse. Together these proposals will extend the financial health of Medicare by 5 years. Not a penny of Medicare taxes or trust fund will be used for the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.
- ✓ **Thousands in Savings by Providing Discounts in the Medicare “Donut Hole”**
 - More than 8 million seniors in 2007 hit the “donut hole,” or gap in prescription drug coverage in Medicare Part D. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act will provide low and middle-income seniors a 50 percent discount on brand-name drug and biologic prices in the donut hole. It will also shrink the gap by \$500 per senior for 2010.
- ✓ **More Affordable Generic Drugs**
 - Some cutting edge drugs are simply too expensive for many seniors. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act will create a pathway for the approval of generic biologic drugs to improve affordability of medications for seniors and all Americans.
- ✓ **Preventive Care for Better Health**
 - Today, seniors must pay 20 percent of the cost of many preventive services. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act will eliminate deductibles, copayments, and other cost-sharing for preventive care, and provide free annual wellness check-ups.
- ✓ **Affordable Long-Term Care**
 - Sixty-five percent of seniors need long-term services at home, at an average cost of \$18,000 each year. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act will create a voluntary long-term care insurance program, which will provide a cash benefit to help seniors and people with disabilities obtain services and supports that will enable them to remain in their homes and communities.

Quality, Affordable Health Care for Seniors

- ✓ **Preserve Access to Doctors in Medicare**
 - The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act will replace the 21 percent cut in Medicare payments to physicians scheduled to occur next year with a payment increase, so doctors may continue to serve Medicare beneficiaries.
- ✓ **Control Chronic Disease**
 - Over 90 percent of Medicare costs are spent on treating chronic conditions. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act will invest in innovations such as medical homes and care coordination to improve the quality of care that seniors receive.
- ✓ **Promote Better Care After a Hospital Discharge**
 - By linking payments between hospitals and other care facilities, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act will promote coordinated care after discharge from the hospital and encourage investments in hospital discharge planning and transitional care to ensure that avoidable readmissions are prevented.
- ✓ **Improve Quality of Care**
 - One in seven hospitalized Medicare patients experiences a complication. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act will invest in developing and reporting quality of care measures across the health care delivery system to help beneficiaries make more informed choices among providers for the care they may need.
 - The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act will also lead to innovations in hospital and provider payments to reward high-quality, efficient care. The focus on quality improvement will move our health system toward one that rewards better care rather than more care.