

National Priorities Partnership

PRESS RELEASE



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National Priorities Partnership Sets Action Agenda to Improve Healthcare and Cut Waste During Time of Severe Economic Strain

National Movement to Spark Transformation in Healthcare in 2009 and Beyond

Washington, D.C. (Nov. 17, 2008) – Today the National Priorities Partnership – a diverse group of national organizations representing those who receive, pay for, deliver, and evaluate healthcare – released an action agenda to transform healthcare during a time of severe economic strain by better investing resources to fundamentally improve patient care and outcomes.

“There is far too much waste and inappropriate care along with growing numbers of uninsured and persistent disparities in care,” said Janet Corrigan, president and CEO of the nonprofit National Quality Forum, which convened the National Priorities Partnership. “These Priorities and Goals are all about the patient. We must make care safer, more effective and affordable for all.”

With each member of the National Priorities Partnership wielding influence over major portions of healthcare delivery, the coalition has the power to set in motion a national movement to deliver transformative improvements to America’s health and healthcare system. “The key to our success will be focusing on the right places in our vast and fragmented system where we can achieve the biggest dividends for patients and their families. It is reform from the inside out – where it has the best chance to succeed,” declared co-chair and Institute for Healthcare Improvement CEO Don Berwick.

The Partnership’s improvement agenda is well underway, identifying six “National Priorities” that target reform in ways that will eliminate waste, harm, and disparities to create and expand world-class, patient-centered, affordable healthcare. The “National Priorities” are:

- Patient and Family Engagement, to provide patient-centered, effective care;
- Population Health, to bring greater focus on wellness and prevention starting in our communities;
- Safety, to improve reliability and eliminate errors wherever and whenever possible;
- Care Coordination, to provide patient-centered, high-value care;
- Palliative and End-of-Life Care, to guarantee appropriate and compassionate care for patients with advanced illnesses; and
- Overuse, to remove waste, encourage appropriate use, and achieve effective, affordable care.

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The nation's economic crisis makes addressing healthcare even more urgent. With healthcare spending on track to reach 50 percent of America's GDP by 2050 and states in severe budgetary straits, cutting waste to achieve savings and better care is an imperative. "There is broad consensus among Americans that healthcare needs real change. We must capitalize on this opportunity to improve safety and effectiveness and eliminate waste," said Partnership co-chair and National Committee for Quality Assurance president Margaret O'Kane. "The Partnership represents unprecedented consensus – we have brought the right players together at the right time to effect positive, meaningful change."

Moving into 2009 and a new session of Congress, the National Priorities Partnership will enlist other powerful organizations to help fix healthcare, arguably the nation's biggest ongoing crisis. The group will spend the next year marshalling specific, measurable actions to deliver better, more affordable care.

About the National Priorities Partnership

The 28 National Priorities Partners represent key healthcare stakeholders, including: consumer groups, employers, government, health plans, healthcare alliances, healthcare professionals, scientists, accrediting and certifying bodies, and quality alliances. They include: AARP, AFL-CIO, Agency of Healthcare Research and Quality, Alliance for Pediatric Quality, America's Health Insurance Plans, American Board of Medical Specialties, American Nurses Association, AQA, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Certification Commission for Healthcare Information Technology, Consumers Union, Hospital Quality Alliance, Institute for Healthcare Improvement, Institute of Medicine, The Joint Commission, Leapfrog Group, National Association of Community Health Centers, National Business Group on Health, National Committee for Quality Assurance, National Governors Association, National Institutes of Health, National Partnership for Women & Families, National Quality Forum, Pacific Business Group on Health, Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement, Quality Alliance Steering Committee, and the U.S. Chambers of Commerce.