



MAYO CLINIC HEALTH POLICY CENTER

Building a vision for health care in America



February 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

A periodic news update from the Mayo Clinic Health Policy Center

Recent Events

Dr. Cortese on C-SPAN Following President Obama's Address

Feb. 24

Denis Cortese, M.D., president and CEO of Mayo Clinic, has been invited to participate live on [C-SPAN](#) following President Obama's address to the joint session of Congress on Tuesday, Feb. 24, at 8 p.m. CST. Dr. Cortese will respond to questions from the C-SPAN host about the health care and health care reform aspects of the president's address. Dr. Cortese is scheduled to appear at approximately 9:30 p.m. CST via satellite from the Plummer Building studio at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn. Several other experts will also be commenting on aspects of the speech related to their expertise.

Provider-Vendor Coalition Pushes for Health IT Advances

The \$787 billion economic stimulus package that Congress recently passed contains \$19 billion in funding for health information technology (HIT).

As members of the newly formed Health Care Information Technology Standards & Interoperability Coalition, Mayo Clinic and 18 other leaders in health care and information technology urged Congress to support the provisions to advance HIT. In a letter to members of Congress and President Obama prior to passage of the legislation, coalition members

from and webcasts of events as well as questions that were submitted by participants. Log in and check it out.

wrote, "As early adopters of Health Information Technology, we are eager to share our experiences on the practical application of such systems."

Nina Schwenk, M.D., Mayo Clinic's vice president of Integration, says the group will identify and develop initiatives to create and demonstrate solutions based on practical and relevant case studies. She says the coalition works closely within the current health care standards and interoperability landscape to maximize effectiveness of work already completed and to drive efficiencies in producing results that show benefits to patients, providers, payers and IT partners.

- [Health Care Information Technology Standards & Interoperability Coalition Summary \(PDF\)](#)
- [Mayo Clinic Health Policy Center Recommendations on Health IT](#)

Health IT Forum

The Health Policy Center hosted a forum to discuss interoperable health information technology (HIT) on Aug. 21. The subject was a follow-up to recommendations made at the [2008 National Symposium on Health Care Reform](#). A group of nearly 30 experts, including health care providers, information technology representatives, employers, academics and a privacy advocate, discussed how stakeholders could create and use interoperable HIT systems to exchange clinical data that would improve care and benefit patients. See a [summary](#) of the discussion.

Upcoming Events

March 2

U.S. Health Board Forum. In conjunction the Emory University Institute for

Advanced Policy Solutions and the Blue Ridge Academic Health Group, this event will help frame ideas to be presented at the Medical Banking Institute annual meeting.

March 12

Refining the U.S. Health Board Concept (a two-hour session within the [Medical Banking Institute annual meeting](#) in Nashville)

April 4

[California Regional Conference on Health Care Reform](#). Health Policy Center outreach event with the University of California Berkeley and the Mayo Clinic Alumni Association.

April 26-28

Health Policy Center [Medical and Health Care Education Reform Symposium](#), Rochester, Minn.

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 \$600,000 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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