

**Wisconsin Academy of Family Physicians
Principles for Reform of the US Health Care System
Approved by the WAFP Board of Directors**

The Principles for Reform of the US Health Care System call for the following actions:

1. Health care coverage for all is needed to ensure quality of care and to improve the health status of Americans.
2. The health care system in the U.S. must provide appropriate health care to all people within the U.S. borders, without unreasonable financial barriers to care.
3. Individuals and families must have catastrophic health coverage to provide protection from financial ruin.
4. Improvement of health care quality and safety must be the goal of all health interventions, so that we can assure optimal outcomes for the resources expended.
5. In reforming the health care system, we as a society must respect the ethical imperative of providing health care to individuals, responsible stewardship of community resources, and the importance of personal health responsibility.
6. Access to and financing for appropriate health services must be a shared public/private cooperative effort, and a system which will allow individuals/employers to purchase additional services or insurance.
7. Cost management by all stakeholders, consistent with achieving quality health care, is critical to attaining a workable, affordable and sustainable health care system.
8. Less complicated administrative systems are essential to reduce costs, create a more efficient health care system, and maximize funding for health care services.
9. Sufficient funds must be available for research (basic, clinical, translational and health services), medical education, and comprehensive health information technology infrastructure and implementation.
10. Sufficient funds must be available for public health and other essential medical services to include, but not be limited to, preventive services, trauma care and mental health services.
11. Comprehensive medical liability reform is essential to ensure access to quality health care.

Additional Principles Adopted by Wisconsin Academy of Family Physicians

1. Reimbursement reform should recognize changes in providing health care services consistent with the Medical Home concepts
 - o Any comprehensive health care reform needs to emphasize the patient-centered medical home. The patient-centered medical home delivers the safest and highest quality care of any currently studied model. The resulting coordination of care minimizes waste and maximizes value through a relationship based on trust and enhanced by use of technology. To function, this system requires payment reform that will attract new physicians into primary care and retain those already practicing in Wisconsin.

2. Incentives for obtaining and providing coverage such as tax advantaged premiums for individuals and businesses as well as Health Savings Accounts, Medical Savings Accounts, Health Reimbursement Accounts, Flexible Spending Accounts, etc. should be considered.
3. Health Care Reform packages should include incentives for wellness, preventive care, and appropriate management of chronic conditions.
4. Primary Care Physicians should be partners in assuring that Quality Initiatives, Health Promotion, and Health Prevention are encouraged for the entire population.
5. Health Care Reform should retain a pluralistic health care system that promotes competition based on quality and cost.