

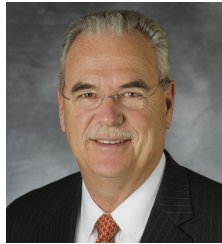
No Quick Fix to Medicare: A Prescription for Real Reform

A Message from America's Hospitals

Washington can't agree on much these days, but everyone agrees that Medicare is front and center on the congressional agenda. Too often the debate has centered on cuts to Medicare *providers* as the way to reduce Medicare spending. While these short-term health care cuts are tempting during a crisis, they *won't* solve the program's long-term challenges.

Cuts to Medicare providers would mean reduced access to critical health care services for everyone. Hospitals are already leading important reforms, such as implementing value-based purchasing, electronic medical records and quality metrics. We're working to keep people healthier, deliver care better and reduce costs. It's time for a national conversation on further ways to modernize Medicare. It's time for *real* reform.

A number of bipartisan plans and proposals to put Medicare on a sustain-



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able track have identified approaches worth discussing. Just a few:

- Combine Medicare Part A (Hospital) and Part B (Physician) into a single benefit with unified cost-sharing and catastrophic cap protection.

- Additional means testing for higher income beneficiaries, including updating deductibles and coinsurance.
- Reform the Medicare supplemental insurance (Medigap) market in a manner that encourages personal responsibility.
- Enact medical liability reform.

Congress has cut \$122 billion from hospitals alone since 2010. We need structural reform, not piecemeal provider cuts. Encourage your legislators to talk about the whole menu of possibilities for reducing health care spending. We need *real* reform of the Medicare program.

America's hospitals are leading the way.

To read more, go to: www.AHA.org



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