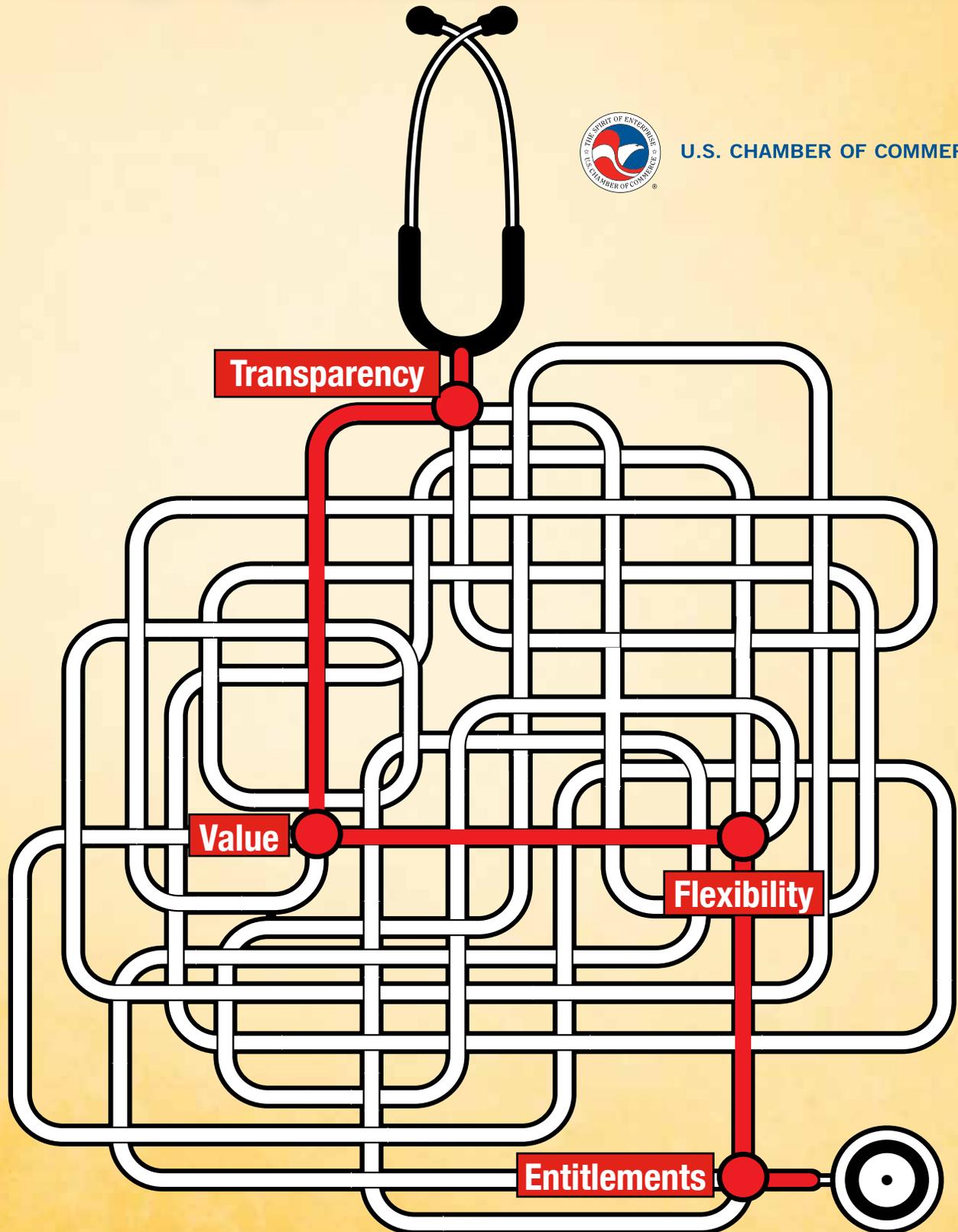


HEALTH CARE:

Navigating Toward Better Choice and Value



U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



ACHIEVING BETTER VALUE IN HEALTH CARE

Recommendations for Reform

Improving quality of care and shifting to a culture of promoting wellness, rather than just trying to treat diseases and their complications, is the best way to get to a high-value health care system. As many employers emphasize, this is a holistic approach to health, an approach that centers on what's best for the person to stay well or get better.

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An Overview

More than four years after the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) was enacted, a variety of critical reforms in health care are still needed to address issues ranging from variation in costs and services to disparity in access and outcomes. That's why the U.S. Chamber of Commerce established the **Health Care Solutions Council**, made up of diverse member companies, to determine how we can lower costs, expand access, and improve quality in health care.

By applying private sector successes to the broader system and making necessary reforms to further private sector innovation, we can improve our nation's overall health and control costs. The Solutions Council released a report in 2013 calling for a four-part approach consisting of recommendations for both the federal government and the private sector to achieve greater value in health care:

- **Provide Meaningful and Transparent Information:** Give consumers access to information on both the cost and quality of services.
- **Promote High-Value, Low-Cost Strategies:** Facilitate payment and benefit reforms that reward providers and patients for better results.
- **Create More Flexibility, Less Regulation:** Expand private sector innovations by supporting flexible benefit and coverage offerings.
- **Stabilize Medicare and Medicaid:** Spur integration with the rest of the health care system to increase efficiencies and offer better choice and control for beneficiaries.

Provide Meaningful and Transparent Information

Adopt innovations pioneered by the private sector to create greater systemwide transparency on price and quality information. Recommendations include:

- Identifying and promoting best practices for providing consumers with more consistent information on the quality of health care services.
- Building greater awareness of tools that help consumers access meaningful information about the cost and quality of care.



Promote High-Value, Low-Cost Strategies

Avoid costly complications of chronic diseases and preventable health problems by encouraging adoption of initiatives such as workplace wellness and disease management programs.

Recommendations include:

- Promoting outcomes-based health care payment and benefit reforms.
- Leveraging advances in health information technology to transform the delivery of care.

Create More Flexibility, Less Regulation

Reinforce employers' innovation and commitment to providing high-value coverage and curtailing unnecessary spending through PPACA reforms.

Recommendations include:

- Tracking and assessing the impact of benefit requirements and new fees.
- Revising various insurance market reforms.
- Ensuring that the exchanges are flexible enough to support innovative health plans.

Stabilize Medicare and Medicaid

Improve the quality of care, decrease costs, and stabilize Medicare and Medicaid by applying private sector practices.

Recommendations include:

- Giving Medicare beneficiaries more choice and control, as well as the opportunity to lower their premiums and co-pays when they take steps to stay well.
- Creating continuity between Medicare and Medicaid programs, the health care exchanges, and employer-sponsored coverage.

These thoughtful and carefully constructed proposed changes could ease the impact of implementation, especially on small businesses; mitigate and control the growth of unnecessary costs; and protect and improve the private sector coverage that millions of Americans have long valued.

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**For more information on the
Chamber's Solutions Council recommendations,
view the complete report at
www.uschamber.com/health-care**





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