

Making Health Reform Work
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WORKING SUMMARY (May 2009 DRAFT)

OVERVIEW:

Excitement about national health reform in the US has reignited in 2009. More stakeholders are agreeing about the need for major reforms and what changes should be made – including universal coverage and possibly an individual mandate to have insurance. And states such as Massachusetts are having targeted successes, which may lead the way for national improvements.

However, actually improving the US healthcare system will require more than just agreement about the **substance** of what needs to be changed, and why these changes are important. It will also require successful **processes** for implementing those changes, including passing and implementing legislation, and redirecting the actions and initiatives of many stakeholders. Making Health Reform Work stresses the importance of integrated analyses and approaches for developing both the **substance** of health reform, and the **processes** for effective implementation.

AUDIENCE:

Making Health Reform Work is for concerned citizens, opinion leaders, public officials and others to provide them with a fundamental understanding of how our healthcare system operates, and a roadmap for creating a system that provides more universally accessible and affordable healthcare with greater value, higher quality and more compassion.

SUBSTANCE: Structural Problems in the Healthcare System:

The public debate about healthcare has been dominated by issues such as high costs and the uninsured. However, these are actually symptoms of underlying problems such as misaligned resources, perverse incentives, and insufficient information. Rather than simply attacking symptoms, improving our healthcare system will require fixing substantive **problems**, with the goal of making clinical and economic outcomes more transparent and accountable for all stakeholders.

Making Health Reform Work analyzes the fundamental structural problems of the US healthcare system and the forces shaping it, and presents solutions to these problems in five areas:

1. Information & Communications
2. Economics & Financing
3. Delivery & Coverage
4. Innovation
5. Public Health

PROCESS: Aligning Stakeholders to Support Health Reform:

Implementing significant reforms will require **processes** designed to align the actions and attitudes of various stakeholders. Making Health Reform Work describes how to use financial and non-economic resources and incentives as part of comprehensive programs to promote this alignment and overcome the obstacles which have typically thwarted major reform efforts. Making Health Reform Work readers will be able to produce lasting improvements in our healthcare system by aligning the ideas and energies of stakeholders and leaders, developing and prioritizing proposals, and combining these actions into practical real-world implementation plans.

For More Information Contact:

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