

What Does Health Care Reform Mean For Seniors?



Health care reform was passed to provide seniors with greater access to health care coverage that will lower out-of-pocket prescription drug costs, provide preventive care, and increase the options for primary and long-term care.

Community clinics and health centers provide (CCHCs) culturally and linguistically appropriate, prevention focused care, and are located in the communities of the patients they serve. CCHCs stand ready to provide the

Medicare

Beginning this year, seniors who enter into the Medicare coverage gap or “doughnut hole” will receive a \$250 check to help pay for prescriptions.

- Beginning in January 2011, seniors in the “doughnut hole” will receive a 50% discount on brand-name drugs, with the entire “donut hole” eliminated by 2020.
- Beginning in 2011, co-payments are eliminated for a wide range of preventive services such as prostate cancer screenings, mammograms, diabetes screening tests, and glaucoma screening tests.
- Health care reform will guarantee that Medicare will remain solvent for the next nine years.

Medi-Cal

- Provides incentives to help transition seniors from nursing homes to home and community-based health care services. Over 330,000 seniors in California are in nursing homes.
- Eliminates co-payments for preventive services in Medi-Cal.

Insurance in the Exchange

- All health plans will have to offer preventive care at no cost.
- Beginning in 2014, insurance companies will not be able to deny health care coverage for a senior with a pre-existing condition like cancer, asthma, diabetes, orthopedic problems, and leukemia.

Long-Term Care

- Establishes a new national voluntary long-term care insurance program to help seniors receive health services while staying in their homes and communities. The Community Living Assistance Services & Supports Act (CLASS Act) will pay an average of \$50 per day for services such as housing and personal assistance.

For updates and new FAQs please visit <http://www.cPCA.org/govaffairs/Advocacy/HCW/HealthCenterWeek.cfm>

If you have a particular question, you can request the information at askmeabouthealthcare@cPCA.org in English or reformadesalud@cPCA.org for Spanish.

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