

Reforming Medicare

For Seniors

One-size-fits-all policies cannot address unique health care needs. To promote patients' control over their own health care, the next administration and Congress should:

1. **Support choice** of enhanced, affordable coverage options in Medicare Advantage alongside reforms to make it more flexible and cost effective.
2. **Make it easier to shop for care** with price and quality transparency.¹

For Future Generations

Medicare faces an insolvency crisis and its burden on taxpayers is growing.² Without action, our children will shoulder a heavy debt burden and lose access to future health care benefits due to shortsighted decisions. The next administration should support policies to:

1. **Target overpayments** to providers and plans that do not improve the quality of care and increase costs across the entire health care system.³
2. **Focus Medicare funding on providing care**, not subsidies for special interests.
3. **Crack down** on improper payments, including waste, fraud, and abuse.⁴

For a Healthy America

Too often, Medicare elevates the priorities of the federal government over seniors' health needs. To make Medicare work for everyone, the next administration should:

1. **Promote access to care** by basing health care prices on value to beneficiaries, not the machinations of the political system.⁵
2. **Cut red tape**, including regulatory and reporting burdens on providers and plans that detract from the delivery and management of care.
3. **Empower practitioners** to practice at the top of their licenses and make medical decisions based on patient needs.

¹ Theo Merkel, "Health Care Price Transparency: Achievements, Challenges, and Next Steps," Paragon Health Institute, August 2023, <https://paragoninstitute.org/research-paper-page-theo-merkel-price-transparency-recommendations-20230802/>.

² Joe Albanese, "Medicare Financing 101," Paragon Health Institute, March 21, 2023, <https://paragoninstitute.org/medicare-financing-101/>.

³ Brian Blase and Joe Albanese, "Turning the Tide on Red Ink: Commonsense Policies to Make Federal Health Programs More Sustainable," Paragon Health Institute, March 8 2023, <https://paragoninstitute.org/paper-turning-the-tide-red-ink-commonsense-policies-federal-health-programs/>; Joe Albanese, "Reducing Overpayments in Medicare through Site-Neutral Reforms," Paragon Health Institute, June 7, 2023, <https://paragoninstitute.org/policy-brief-site-neutral-payments-joe-albanese-20230607/>.

⁴ Brian Blase and Joe Albanese, "America's Largest Health Care Programs Are Full of Improper Payments," Paragon Health Institute, December 4, 2022, <https://paragoninstitute.org/americas-largest-health-care-programs-are-full-of-improper-payments/>.

⁵ Joe Albanese, "Roadblock to Progress: How Medicare Impedes Health Care Innovation," Paragon Health Institute, September 2023, <https://paragoninstitute.org/research-paper-page-joe-albanese-medicare-roadblock-innovation-20230918/>.