

CORNERSTONE IN FOCUS: Leavitt Delivers Landmark Speeches Outlining Vision for Future of Health Care

HHS Secretary Mike Leavitt recently delivered the first speeches in a series that will present his vision for the future of health care in America and abroad.

Speaking to attendees at the World Health Care Congress, he outlined the key elements needed to build a health care system based on value. In particular, he discussed the benefits that would be gained by giving consumers access to all-inclusive prices for various medical procedures. For example, bundling surgery, anesthesia, hospital stay, and follow-up therapy into a single price would help consumers comparison shop and introduce incentives for accountability and patient-centered coordination that don't exist today.



Secretary Leavitt delivers remarks on Medicare solvency during a forum at Washington, D.C.'s Newseum.

Delivering remarks on *Medicare: Drifting Toward Disaster*, Secretary Leavitt headlined a forum hosted last month by the Galen Institute, the American Enterprise Institute, and The Heritage Foundation. He candidly shared his concern for Medicare's future urging policymakers and the public to work together toward a massive overhaul, and offering a number of solutions, including implementation of value-based reforms. Text of Secretary Leavitt's speeches can be found [online](#).

ATTENTION COMMUNITIES: Application Period for New Value Exchanges Now Open

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) is accepting applications for new Chartered Value Exchanges (CVE) through June 19, 2008. CVEs participate in a nationwide Learning Network and receive Medicare physician quality measurement results provided by CMS to support their efforts to make quality information available to stakeholders in their communities. [Learn more online](#) about how to apply for CVE designation.

Electronic Health Records Demo Project Communities to be Named in June

More than 30 communities have applied for a new demonstration project that will provide Medicare incentive payments to small- and medium-sized physician practices that use certified electronic health records (EHR) to improve the quality of patient care.

The demonstration project is expected to reduce medical errors and improve the quality of care for an estimated 3.6 million Americans. Over a five-year period, financial incentives will be provided to eligible physician practices for use of certified EHRs to improve the quality of care as determined by clinical quality measures.

The EHR demonstration project is a major step toward the President's goal of most Americans having access to a secure, interoperable electronic health record by 2014. The 12 communities will be named in early June, and four will begin physician recruitment immediately. [Learn more online](#) about the EHR demonstration project and HHS efforts *Connecting to Better Health Care*.

Secretary's Blog: Value-Driven Health Care

Since entering the blogosphere last year as the first Cabinet member to have his own blog, Secretary Leavitt has posted dozens of entries on a variety of different topics. Value-driven health care has been chief among them, including such themes as medical costs, insurance coverage, health IT, and interoperability. He has also covered many other issues across HHS, such as pandemic preparedness, global health diplomacy, and the safety of our imported products.

[Visit the Secretary's blog](#), where you will find two recent entries on value-based care. Readers can also comment on posts and subscribe to e-mail updates.



Isn't It Time? Declare Your Support.

Learn more online about [Value-Driven Health Care](#) and [sign up today](#) to be a part of the movement toward better health care at lower cost.



"Every American should have access to a full range of information about the quality and cost of their health care options."

Secretary Michael O. Leavitt