

Universal Healthcare Proposal

The first step must be the acknowledgement that it is a moral imperative that everyone be guaranteed the same level of health care coverage. The system would then require the following components.

- **Taxpayer funded**
- **Universal coverage which is comprehensive, covering all basic healthcare needs(*) including dental and mental health with emphasis on preventative care and consideration of complimentary approaches such as acupuncture and manipulation.**
- **The federal government negotiates drug and medical equipment prices.**
- **Coverage will be provided by either the federal government or by non-profit insurance companies. The simplest system would be one or the other but not both. In either case, insurance companies will be able to offer additional coverage for things like cosmetic surgery and luxury hospital rooms on a for profit basis.**
- **Reimbursement rates are set by the federal government.**
- **The federal government will subsidize the cost of education for doctors, nurses, and other health care professionals given a requisite number of years spent in that profession.**
- **All patient health records are contained on a plastic card that the patient carries with them like a credit card or drivers license.**

(*) The most difficult decisions involve rationing. These will be made by an independent board made up of providers, consumers and health care experts similar to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) in the United Kingdom. This board would also determine the numbers and types of providers needed to insure efficiency and quality. For example, the proportion of specialists versus general practitioners.

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