

Priorities for Health System Reform

The Endocrine Society supports policies that ensure access to high-quality, specialized care for people with endocrine conditions, and affordable health insurance regardless of income, employment, health status, or geographic location.

All patients with endocrine conditions must be guaranteed of the following safeguards:

- A guarantee of health insurance coverage with no lifetime caps or pre-existing conditions exclusions. Alleviating some of the financial burden of managing their disease allows individuals to follow the care plan developed with their physician and avoid costly complications.
- An option for young adults to remain on their parents' insurance plan until age 26.
- Protections against unreasonable out-of-pocket costs that would cause a patient to delay or skip necessary health care.
- Access to preventive health services, including programs such as the Diabetes Prevention Program, at no cost to the beneficiary.
- Access to women's reproductive health care at little to no cost for the beneficiary.

The health care system must function in a way that provides high-quality care while reducing costs. Health system reform proposals must include the following:

- Avenues to develop care models that encourage coordination of care and offer preventive services to effectively manage chronic conditions and avoid costly complications. The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation provides a means for testing these models.



- Systems that incentivize health care professionals to provide high-quality care and reduce unnecessary tests or procedures, while maintaining the right for physicians and patients to choose the best treatment for that patient, without consideration of cost.
- Funding for the provision and expansion of evidence-based preventive health programs, such as the Diabetes Prevention Program, which reduces the chances of a person with prediabetes from progressing to diabetes by 71%, resulting in a savings of \$2,650 per enrollee. The Prevention and Public Health Fund provides 12% of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention budget for important public health programs.