



## NEWS YOU CAN USE: HOW HEALTH REFORM IMPACTS SENIORS

Health reform will strengthen and improve Medicare by

- **Extending Medicare Solvency for 9 more years -- until 2026**
- **Closing Doughnut Hole (2010 – 2020)**
- **Adding new preventive and wellness benefits (2011)**
- **Incentivizing higher quality care, not volume care (2010 – 2020)**

Health reform will strengthen and improve Medicare for today's seniors

- **Closing The Doughnut Hole:** Seniors face doughnut hole when their drug expenses are between \$2,830 --\$6,440. Bill gives seniors who hit doughnut hole in 2010 an immediate \$250 rebate check. Beginning next year seniors will receive a 50% discount on brand-name drugs in the doughnut hole, and the doughnut hole will be completely closed by 2020.
- **New preventive benefits:** No senior will pay extra to receive recommended preventive services that will keep them healthier
- **New wellness benefit:** Seniors receive new annual wellness visit at no cost
- **Incentivizing higher quality care, not volume care:** Bill improves care coordination and patient safety so that seniors get recommended treatments – particularly for reducing costly hospital readmissions and chronic disease care
- **New voluntary long-term care insurance program** to help cover the costs of support services to help with daily activities and allow seniors to age in place

Reform also makes care affordable for older Americans not yet eligible for Medicare by

- **Ending insurance company discrimination** that charge excessive premium rates due to age or pre-existing health conditions

**For more information please visit**

- [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov)
- 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)