

**2. Provide every person with access to a primary care physician. Create workforce and payment policies to increase the numbers of primary care physicians, recognize the value of primary care, and support care organized through a patient-centered medical home.**

Obama’s plan states that “primary care providers and public health practitioners have and will continue to lead efforts to protect and promote the nation’s health. Yet, the numbers of both are dwindling.” As such, Obama will expand funding—including loan repayment, adequate reimbursement, grants for training curricula, and infrastructure support to improve working conditions— to ensure a strong workforce that will champion prevention and public health activities.” McCain’s plan does not specifically address primary care workforce issues but discusses the importance of prevention and patients being able to choose their own physician.

Both candidates have expressed specific support for “medical homes.” In an April 29 speech, McCain stated that under his plan “when Americans speak of ‘our doctor,’ it will mean something again, because they won't have to change from one doctor or one network to the next every time they change employers. They'll have a medical ‘home’ again, dealing with doctors who know and care about them.” Obama will grant “support to providers to put in place care management programs and encourage team care through implementation of medical home type models that will improve coordination and integration of care of those with chronic conditions.”

Both candidates have noted their support for care coordination and physician reimbursement reforms, including pay-for-performance and making quality and cost information available to patients.

**Side-by-Side Comparison of the Candidates’ Proposals to Create Workforce and Payment Policies in Support of Primary Care and the Patient-Centered Medical Home.**

Sen. John McCain (R-AZ)	Sen. Barack Obama (D-IL)
<p>Changes in Medicare payment and reimbursement in order to compensate providers for diagnosis, prevention and care coordination, with a strong emphasis on pay-for-performance incentives.</p> <p>Support medical homes and care coordination programs to result in better quality health care and lower health care</p>	<p>Support for implementing care coordination programs and encouraging team care in an effort to improve integrated and coordinated care for those with chronic conditions.</p> <p>Support providers who implement medical homes or other models to improve care management.</p> <p>Reward providers for their performance through the</p>

<p>costs.</p> <p>Development of public health initiatives specifically intended to educate children about health, nutrition and exercise; to stem the rising prevalence of obesity and diabetes; and to deter smoking.</p> <p>Strong emphasis on personal responsibility in preventing chronic diseases and adhering to treatments following a diagnosis of an illness.</p> <p>Support for enabling individuals to choose their own doctor through a medical home. No specific reforms in workforce policies to assure a sufficient supply of primary care physicians.</p> <p>For more information visit the McCain <a href="#">website</a>.</p>	<p>National Health Insurance Exchange and other public programs.</p> <p>Seek increased funding to improve the primary care provider workforce, including loan repayment support, training grants and improved reimbursements.</p> <p>For more information visit the Obama <a href="#">website</a>.</p>
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