

Principles for Health Care Reform

SF8/HF51

The Minnesota Health Plan was designed around nine principles that are necessary conditions for any health care system to keep people healthy and provide high quality health care. Under the legislation, these principles would be legal requirements that the MN Health Plan must meet:

- (1) Ensure all Minnesotans receive high quality health care, regardless of their income;
- (2) Not restrict, delay, or deny care or reduce the quality of care to hold down costs, but instead reduce costs through prevention, efficiency, and reduction of bureaucracy;
- (3) Cover all necessary care, including all coverage currently required by law, complete mental health services, chemical dependency treatment, prescription drugs, medical equipment and supplies, dental care, long-term care, and home care services;
- (4) Allow patients to choose their own providers;
- (5) Be funded through premiums and other payments based on the person's ability to pay, so as not to deny full access to any Minnesotan;
- (6) Focus on preventive care and early intervention to improve the health of all Minnesotans and reduce costs from untreated illnesses and diseases;
- (7) Ensure an adequate number of qualified health care professionals and facilities to guarantee availability of, and timely access to, quality care throughout the state;
- (8) Continue Minnesota's leadership in medical education, training, research, and technology; and
- (9) Provide adequate and timely payments to providers.