The Health Care Reform Debate: 10 Myths

Health care is complex: its issues are complicated and solutions in some cases are not clear. As the 2012 Election nears, health reform takes center stage. Dr. Paul Keckley, Executive Director for the Deloitte Center for Health Solutions, shares the top ten myths about the health care reform debate.

1. Myth: Most Americans like our current system

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2. Myth: There’s not enough money in the U.S. health system

Fact: There is a shortage of primary care physicians.

3. Myth: Prevention is not effective

Fact: Myths about prevention are out of date. Evidence shows that prevention can make a difference. According to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, every $1 invested in prevention activities yields $3 in health care cost savings.

4. Myth: We can reduce cost without changing our behavior

Fact: Myths are not the issue here. For cost to spiral, we need to act.

5. Myth: Health care is underutilized

Fact: Most of the care that’s recommended is necessary and most of what the system spends is in health care services.

6. Myth: There are too many doctors

Fact: Although the number of primary care physicians is growing, it is still below the number needed to meet the needs of the growing population. In fact, the number of primary care physicians is declining in some states.

7. Myth: The health industry is a problem and its fate uncertain

Fact: Health insurance industry is a concern. It is costly, complex, and vulnerable to fraud. However, the industry has made significant progress in improving insurance coverage and expanding access to care.

8. Myth: The ACA includes a complicated set of demonstrations and pilot programs

Fact: The Affordable Care Act (ACA) includes a number of programs and initiatives designed to improve the health care system. These programs include expanded coverage for uninsured and underinsured individuals, new funding for research and development, and efforts to improve the quality of care.

9. Myth: The health care system is the problem and its fate uncertain

Fact: The health care system is not the problem. It is the lack of integration and coordination across the health care system that is the problem. Reform efforts are needed to address these issues.

10. Myth: It’s not an organized system

Fact: Government health care programs—Medicare and Medicaid—are highly organized systems. They are designed to provide access to care, manage costs, and improve the quality of care.

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