

Cardinal Health's commitment to making healthcare safer and more productive

Our mission is to make healthcare safer and more productive. We are delivering on that mission to help hospitals, physician offices and pharmacies provide quality care to patients and reduce unnecessary costs. With a focus on making supply chains more efficient, reducing healthcare-associated infections and breaking the cycle of harmful medication errors, Cardinal Health is an integral part of healthcare delivery in the United States.

Building a 21st century healthcare system

The nation faces numerous challenges as we seek to create a 21st Century healthcare system. Tens of millions of Americans are without health coverage for various reasons. Lack of coverage can lead to poor health outcomes, cost-shifting, and system-wide disruptions. Preventable medical errors occur, resulting in pain and suffering for the patient and unnecessary costs to the system. Patients need to be more involved with healthcare decisions and their overall plans of care. Providers' incentives should be properly aligned with the core drivers of an optimal healthcare system. We can address these challenges to improve accessibility, produce increased value for our healthcare dollars, and provide the highest quality of care possible with achievable reforms. Appropriate reform will build upon the strengths of our existing system that has fostered the innovation necessary to conquer disease and continuously improve patient care.

Public and private partnership needed to produce meaningful reform

Ensuring a more complete understanding of the impact of reform proposals on healthcare delivery will help produce positive changes that can improve patient care and avoid adverse effects on today's overall healthcare system. Leaders in the healthcare community have an obligation to collaborate with one another and work with Congress to achieve policy initiatives to improve the healthcare system. Cardinal Health will continue to participate in discussions, debates and legislative activity relating to healthcare reform, engaging as needed with a steadfast focus on our mission of making healthcare safer and more productive.

Cardinal Health Principles for Healthcare Reform

Expand Access to Health Coverage

Cardinal Health recognizes the need for improved access to health insurance, helping the tens of millions of uninsured Americans secure healthcare coverage. Three important approaches to addressing this need are 1) providing subsidies for those who need them, 2) eliminating tax disparities between employer-sponsored coverage and individually purchased health insurance, and 3) maintaining viable public programs for those without private insurance.

Elevate Patient Safety and Quality

By implementing demonstrated best practices, preventable medical errors can be significantly reduced or eliminated, resulting in improved patient safety, higher quality and reduced costs. Better development and dissemination of evidence-based medicine can result in patients receiving the right treatment at the right time.

Promote Innovation

Cardinal Health encourages the promotion of medical innovation as a part of reform initiatives aimed at reducing overall costs and improving quality, recognizing innovation results in breakthrough ideas and continuous improvement.

Invest in Health Information Technology

Cardinal Health encourages Congress to invest in the development and implementation of national standards for health information technology, including the move to electronic medical records. Such technology will help reduce errors, benefit patient health and enhance efficiencies overall.

Focus on Consumers

Cardinal Health supports change in the area of improved patient literacy, as well as transparency of cost, quality and outcomes. Such change will enable consumer choice and competition in the United States to elevate value, quality and cost-effectiveness within the healthcare system.

Align Financial Incentives

Cardinal Health supports financial incentives to reward quality care and positive outcomes, as well as to encourage prevention, care coordination and management of chronic diseases.