



Obama's Plan For NH: Cut Medicare

Obama's Callous Cuts To Medicare Advantage Hit New Hampshire Seniors

Speaking In Rochester In 2008, Obama Said That He Would Tell The American People "What They Need To Hear," Not Just "What They Want To Hear." OBAMA: "You know at the beginning of this campaign I said to my staff, and I said to my supporters, 'We're not just going to run the same old textbook Washington campaign, not this time. Not now, it just won't do. We're not just going to tell the American people what they want to hear, we're going to tell them what they need to hear.'" (Senator Barack Obama, [Remarks At The Rochester Opera House](#), Rochester, NH, 1/7/08)

WHAT OBAMA WON'T TELL NEW HAMPSHIRE IS THAT OBAMACARE CUTS MEDICARE AND ITS POPULAR ADVANTAGE PROGRAM

7,600 New Hampshire Seniors' Medicare Advantage Plans Were Discontinued Due To "Pending Funding Cuts And Provisions Within The New Health Care Law." "Many local Medicare Advantage users are being left in the lurch by their health plan providers. About 7,600 seniors in Rockingham, Carroll, and Hillsborough Counties received notice earlier this month that their Medicare Advantage coverage is being discontinued. New Hampshire has one of the highest percentages of Medicare Advantage enrollees in New England. ... Pending funding cuts and provisions within the new health care law will make it impossible for providers to continue providing Medicare Advantage plans and remain solvent, he said." (Julie Hanson, "Medicare Questions Just Keep Coming," [New Hampshire Union Leader](#), 11/30/11)

- **Lawmakers In Part Blamed ObamaCare.** "Local lawmakers are placing the blame on the Medicare Improvement for Patients and Providers Act passed in June 2008 and the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010." (Julie Hanson, "Medicare Questions Just Keep Coming," [New Hampshire Union Leader](#), 11/30/11)
- **22,000 Seniors From New Hampshire Were Notified That Their Medicare Advantage Plans Have Been Dropped.** "Harvard Pilgrim Health Care has notified customers that it will drop its Medicare Advantage health insurance program at the end of the year, forcing 22,000 senior citizens in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Maine to seek alternative supplemental coverage. The decision by Wellesley-based Harvard Pilgrim, the state's second-largest health insurer, was prompted by a freeze in federal reimbursements and a new requirement that insurers offering the kind of product sold by Harvard Pilgrim - a Medicare Advantage private fee for service plan - form a contracted network of doctors who agree to participate for a negotiated

amount of money. Under current rules, patients can seek care from any doctor.” (Robert Weisman, “Harvard Pilgrim Cancels Medicare Advantage Plan,” [The Boston Globe](#), 9/28/10)

Obama’s Medicare Cuts Affect The Most Vulnerable Seniors

Virtually Half Of All Senior Citizens That Rely On Medicare Advantage Have “Incomes Of \$20,000 Or Less.” “Forty-three (43) percent of Medicare beneficiaries were enrolled in Medicare Advantage plans had incomes of \$20,000 or less. By comparison, 39 percent of all Medicare beneficiaries had incomes of \$20,000 or less.” (“Low-Income And Minority Beneficiaries In Medicare Advantage Plans, 2010,” [America’s Health Insurance Plans’ Center For Policy And Research](#), 5/03/12)

- **“Twenty-Nine (29) Percent Of African-American Medicare Beneficiaries And 36 Percent Of Hispanic Beneficiaries And 36 Percent Of Hispanic Beneficiaries Were Enrolled In Medicare Advantage Plans.”** (“Low-Income And Minority Beneficiaries In Medicare Advantage Plans, 2010,” [America’s Health Insurance Plans’ Center For Policy And Research](#), 5/03/12)
- **A Quarter Of All Seniors Rely On Medicare Advantage And “Some Of The Heaviest Enrollment Is In Politically Contested States.** “Medicare covers seniors and disabled people. About one-fourth of beneficiaries are signed up in Medicare Advantage plans that offer lower out-of-pocket costs and more comprehensive benefits than the traditional program. Some of the heaviest enrollment is in politically contested states, including Florida, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Nevada, Minnesota and Colorado.” (“Obama Administration Eases Pain Of Medicare Cuts,” [The Associated Press](#), 4/19/11)

Obama Cut Over \$700 Billion From Health Care Programs That Cover Seniors’ Health Care Needs

According To The Congressional Budget Office, ObamaCare Specifically Cut \$156 Billion From Medicare Advantage. (Douglas Elmendorf, Letter To Speaker John Boehner, [Congressional Budget Office](#), 7/24/12)

- **“The Affordable Care Act (ACA) Significantly Reduced MA Plan Payments.”** (Press Release, [Avalere](#), 3/12/12)
- **Overall, The Congressional Budget Office Determined That ObamaCare Cuts Medicare By \$716 Billion.** (Douglas Elmendorf, Letter To Speaker John Boehner, [Congressional Budget Office](#), 7/24/12)
- **ObamaCare Cut Medicare By 6 Percent.** “If the debt committee hits a dead end, the agreement between President Barack Obama and congressional leaders decrees an automatic 2 percent cut to Medicare providers. That’s on top of a 6 percent cut already enacted to finance the president’s health care law, according to the nonpartisan Kaiser Family Foundation. And the earlier cut is still being phased in.” (“Advocates, Industry Fear Debt Deal Could Open The Way For Big Cuts To Medicare And Medicaid,” [The Associated Press](#), 8/2/11)

AMERICANS THAT RELY ON MEDICARE FOR THEIR HEALTH CARE NEEDS DESERVE BETTER

Obama’s Cuts To Medicare Threatens Access To Medicare Advantage For A Quarter Of The Elderly Enrolled In Medicare

ObamaCare’s Medicare Cuts Will Put Seniors At Risk Of Losing Their Medicare Advantage Benefits. “Seniors in a number of states risk losing their Medicare Advantage benefits because of cuts in President Obama’s healthcare reform law, according to a new report from Avalere.” (Julian Pecquet, “Report: Health Care Law Cuts Put Medicare Advantage Benefits At Risk In Some States,” [The Hill’s “Health Watch”](#), 3/12/12)

- **CMS: “The New Provisions Will Generally Reduce MA (Medicare Advantage) Rebates To Plans And Thereby Result In Less Generous Benefit Packages.”** (Richard S. Foster, “Estimated Financial Effects Of The ‘Patient Protection And Affordable Care Act,’ As Amended,” [CMS](#), 4/22/10)
- **Medicare Providers Would Be Forced To Cut Back On Popular Provisions Such As “Vision, Dental, And Prescription Benefits.”** “Many insurance companies are planning to increase costs for a range of services for seniors next year, according to consultants who have helped prepare their bids. Dozens of Medicare Advantage providers plan to cut back vision, dental and prescription benefits. Some plans are eliminating free teeth cleanings and gym memberships, and raising fees for hearing aids, eye glasses and emergency-room visits.” (Janet Adamy, “HHS Warns Medicare Insurers On Rates,” [The Wall Street Journal](#), 6/7/10)
- **Rep. Robert Andrews (D-NJ), Ranking Member Of Health Subcommittee, When Asked If Medicare Advantage Enrollees Would See Their Benefits Cut, He Answered “Yes.”** CAVUTO: “Well do you also accept the CBO saying that under the Medicare Advantage Program, those recipients are going to see benefits cut?” ANDREWS: “Yes.” (Fox News’ “Your World,” 9/29/09)

Obama’s Former Budget Director Says While Medicare Advantage Plans Get Paid 10 Percent More Than Traditional Medicare, They Offer 13 Percent More In Benefits. “[P]ayments to HMOs averaged 10 percent above [traditional Medicare] costs, MedPAC estimates. On average, HMOs offered extra benefits and rebates equal to 13 percent of [traditional Medicare] costs; those additional benefits reflected the difference between the benchmarks (which averaged 10 percent above FFS costs) and plans’ bids (which averaged 3 percent below FFS costs).” (Peter R. Orszag, Director, Congressional Budget Office, “The Medicare Advantage Program,” [Testimony Before The Committee On The Budget, U.S. House of Representatives](#), 6/28/07)

Seniors Will Lose The Advantage Plans That They Have Come To Rely On

Medicare Chief Actuary Richard “[F]oster’s Office Is Projecting That More Than 7 Million Medicare Recipients In Private Medicare Advantage Plans Will Eventually Have To Find Other Coverage. That Would Cut Enrollment In The Popular Plans By About Half.” (“Medicare Official Doubts Health Care Law Savings,” [The Associated Press](#), 1/26/11)

- **CMS: Enrollment In Medicare Advantage Plans Will Be Cut In Half By 2017.** “We estimate that in 2017, when the MA (Medicare Advantage) provisions will be fully phased in, enrollment in MA plans will be lower by about 50 percent (from its projected level of 14.8 million under the prior law to 7.4 million under the new law).” (Richard S. Foster, “Estimated Financial Effects Of The ‘Patient Protection And Affordable Care Act,’ As Amended,” [CMS](#), 4/22/10)

New Hampshire Union Leader: Americans Will Lose Coverage Along With Their Health Providers. “Its regulations will so skew the private insurance market that millions will lose the coverage they have and be forced into plans preferred by bureaucrats in Washington. They will lose access to their doctors, too. It would make a lot more sense to reform the health insurance market by working to give people more control over their own care, not less.” (Editorial, “A Small Taste: New Hampshire Samples ObamaCare,” [New Hampshire Union Leader](#), 12/1/11)

- **ObamaCare’s Medicare Cuts Are Forcing Private Physicians To Turn Away New Patients.** “Doctors on the panel also warned that PPACA’s \$500 billion cut to Medicare could translate into even less reimbursement for those who care for patients insured by the government. Already, many physicians are turning away new patients because they’re taking a loss or barely breaking even when working with Medicare.” (J.D. Harrison, “Health Care Law Driving Doctors Away From Small Practices, Toward Hospital Employment,” [The Washington Post](#), 7/19/12)