



National Health Plan “In Brief”

Purpose: The National Health Plan Consultation Paper aims to reset the direction of Bermuda’s health system. It lays the foundation to make healthcare more affordable and improve access and quality.

Context: Bermuda’s health system has served the island well for forty years. We have a healthy population and good quality services in many areas. However, healthcare reviews over the past fifteen years have identified areas for improvement. In particular, increasing healthcare costs and lack of affordability for some have become major concerns. The Plan builds on the recommendations of past reviews, on current priorities, and existing strengths to establish a platform for reform.

Core values: The Plan proposes new core values for our health system: equity and sustainability.

- **Equity** is defined as equal access to basic healthcare and proportional financial burden.
- **Sustainability** is defined as spending growth in line with inflation and a health system resourced to be affordable for the economy, payors, providers, employers and individuals.

These values will be the founding principles for all health system decisions in Bermuda.

Building on strengths: Three areas will retain their basic structure: the delivery of healthcare by private and public providers, Government run public health services, and the commitment to subsidize vulnerable populations. Enhancements in these areas will take place through the reform goals.

Implementation & Evaluation:

Implementation of the National Health Plan will take place in phases over seven years. Leadership for each goal will be given to specific agencies which will develop and implement action plans. Short-term, interim solutions will be developed to address urgent priorities around cost-containment. The Ministry of Health will coordinate overall implementation. The Bermuda Health Council will monitor implementation and the outcome of reforms.

Consultation process:

Feedback and comments on the National Health Plan Consultation Paper should be sent in writing to the CEO of the Bermuda Health Council by 30th April 2011.

Health sector reform goals:

The Plan has eleven health sector goals that provide the roadmap for reform.

1. Universal access to basic health coverage shall be assured for all residents of Bermuda.
2. Basic health coverage shall include urgent physical and mental health care, hospitalization, primary care, preventive care, and health maintenance.
3. Health coverage contributions shall be based on ability to pay to ensure equitable access to healthcare.
4. Streamline use of overseas care to efficiently meet the needs of the population.
5. Mechanisms to pay healthcare providers shall ensure optimal quality to patients and maximum efficiency to the healthcare system.
6. An integrated health IT system shall be established throughout the health sector to improve efficiency and quality.
7. Implement strategies to meet the healthcare needs of people with chronic illnesses, and physical, cognitive and mental disabilities.
8. The quality of healthcare provision shall be monitored and regulated.
9. Bermuda’s health system shall be financed through the most cost-effective means available.
10. Introduction of health technology shall be regulated to ensure adequate level and mix of resources to efficiently meet the healthcare needs of the population.
11. Health professionals and organizations shall assure the promotion of healthy lifestyles and maintenance of health conditions

How to get a copy:

The National Health Plan Consultation Paper can be obtained from the Bermuda Health Council or from the Ministry of Health.

Bermuda Health Council

Sterling House 3rd Floor
16 Wesley Street
Hamilton HM11
www.bhec.bm

Ministry of Health

Continental Building
25 Church Street
Hamilton HM12
www.gov.bm

Email: healthcouncil@bhec.bm

Phone: (441) 292-6420

Fax: (441) 292-8067