



# Federal Health Reform and You

## A Basic Summary for the 1st Anniversary

A Utah Health Policy Project Issue Brief

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### Federal Health Reform: The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA)

Federal health reform (ACA) became the law of the land one year ago, on March 23 2010. The Affordable Care Act makes many changes to health care that benefit you, the consumer. The ACA is long (and complicated), but it really boils down to **5 simple things**:

**Everyone will have quality, affordable care** because:

- ✓ We will **share “risk”** as a society.
  - Everyone is covered and no one is turned away or dropped from health insurance.
- ✓ We **will help low-wage workers pay** for it, and cover the very poor through Medicaid.
  - Tax credits, premium subsidies, Medicaid, + CHIP
- ✓ **Health care providers** will be paid for promoting good health outcomes in a more efficient health care system.
  - Accountable Care Organizations + electronic health records create an efficient health system that rewards providers for helping patients get healthier.
- ✓ We will **promote healthy behaviors** and the prevention of chronic disease.
  - Strong public health programs and no-cost preventive care + disease screening for everyone builds healthy communities.
- ✓ Our **health care workforce** will be strong.
  - More primary care providers, community-based health care workers, + health education help everyone get the health care they need to stay healthy.

#### Under Federal Health Reform, health care will be...

- affordable
- safe + secure
- private
- independent
- open to choice
- easily available + convenient

### 3 simple things federal health reform will help you do:

1. Buy health insurance
2. Demand better medical care
3. Live a healthier life

For more information about federal health reform and how it will affect you, visit [www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov) or [www.healthpolicyproject.org](http://www.healthpolicyproject.org)

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