



## Six Straightforward Steps to Better Healthcare

The Center for Health Transformation (CHT), a bipartisan collaboration of healthcare leaders and stakeholders committed to creating a 21st Century Intelligent Health System, is developing an approach to improve healthcare quality, lower costs, and ultimately insure every American. If we rebuilt government policies to maximize the rate of migration to these practices and solutions, we would be dramatically healthier and would also save an incredible amount of money. To create a system that delivers more choices of higher quality health care at lower cost, we need to take the following six straightforward steps:

1. **Stop Paying the Crooks.** We must dramatically reduce healthcare fraud within our current healthcare system. Outright fraud -- criminal activity -- accounts for as much as 10 percent of all healthcare spending. That is more than \$200 billion every year. Medicare alone could account for as much as \$40 billion a year.
2. **Move from a Paper-Based to an Electronic Health System.** As it stands now, it is simply impossible to keep up with fraud in a paper-based system. An electronic system would free tens of billions of dollars to be spent on investing on the kind of modern system that will transform healthcare. In addition, it would dramatically increase our ability to eliminate costly medical errors and to accelerate the adoption of new solutions and breakthroughs.
3. **Tax Reform.** The savings realized through very deliberately and very systematically eliminating fraud could be used to provide tax incentives and vouchers that would help cover those Americans who currently can't afford coverage. In addition, we need to expand tax incentives for insurance provided by small employers and the self-employed. Finally, elimination of capital gains taxes for investments in health-solution companies can greatly impact the creation advancement of new solutions that create better health at lower cost.
4. **Create a Health-Based Health System.** In essence, we must create a system that focuses on improving individual health. The best way to accomplish this is to find out what solutions are actually working today that save lives and save money and then design public policy to encourage their widespread adoption. We need the federal government and other healthcare stakeholders to consistently migrate to best practices that ensure quality, safety and better outcomes. We need to make best practices the minimum practice.
5. **Reform Our Health Justice System.** Currently, the U.S. civil justice system is the most expensive in the world -- about double the average cost in virtually every other industrialized nation. But for all of the money spent, our civil justice system neither effectively compensates persons injured from medical negligence nor encourages the elimination of medical errors. Because physicians fear malpractice suits, defensive medicine (redundant, wasteful treatment designed to avoid lawsuits, not treat the patient) has become pervasive. CHT is developing a number of bold health-justice reforms including a "safe harbor" for physicians who followed clinical best practices in the treatment of a patient. You can learn more at [www.healthtransformation.net](http://www.healthtransformation.net).
6. **Invest in Scientific Research and Breakthroughs.** We must accelerate and focus national efforts, re-engineer care delivery, and ultimately prevent diseases such as Alzheimer's Disease, which is financially crippling our healthcare system.

For more information, please visit  
[www.healthtransformation.net](http://www.healthtransformation.net)