

# Expanding and Improving Health Care

With the goal of making health care more accessible and affordable for middle class families, the 2010 Legislature will consider two initiatives to hold insurance companies accountable and a package of recommendations from a bi-partisan health care commission.

One bill will require insurers to cover routine patient care costs while in an approved cancer clinical trial. If the insurer denies coverage because the proposed trial treatment is experimental, the patient may file a written request for an expedited review of the denial by the Insurance Commissioner.

Another bill will require insurers to cover the cost of flu shots regardless of where they are administered. Currently, some insurers will only cover shots given at the doctor's office, but not by public health officials at other sites.

Last year, the Legislature created the Legislative Health Care Commission comprised of stakeholders and consumers from across Iowa. The commission met throughout the fall to fully discuss and analyze Iowa's health care system. They developed the following recommendations for Iowa regarding health care reform:

- Expand IowaCare to create a regional delivery model.
- Fund increases in the Department of Human Resources' technological capacities.
- Pursue early opt-in opportunities presented by federal health care reform.
- Develop a statewide diabetic registry.
- Further explore the concept of opening of the state insurance pool.
- Develop a more seamless system for Iowans moving from public health care to private health care coverage, and moving from one public health insurance program to another.
- The Iowa Insurance Division and the Insurance Commissioner should pursue all statutory options to improve seamlessness through increasing opportunities for "creditable coverage" in Iowa.
- Ensure that information is readily available to Iowans providing details about health care services provided by the safety net providers.
- Begin the process of designing an Iowa Exchange, and ensure that it will provide quality data on providers and plans, and data to consumers and funders, on the cost of medical care.