



CHART #2: SIDE-BY-SIDE COMPARISON OF 2008 REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES' HEALTH PLANS (LISTED ALPHABETICALLY)

By Susan J. Blumenthal, M.D., Yi-An Ko, Beth Louise Hoffman, and Melissa Shive*



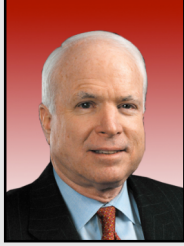

	<u>Mike Huckabee</u> 	<u>Alan Keyes</u> 	<u>John McCain</u> 	<u>Ron Paul, M.D.</u> 
Health Care Plan Release Date	April 24, 2007	No formal announcement	October 11, 2007	No formal announcement
Stated Goals for Coverage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Will work with private sector, Congress, health care providers and other concerned parties to enact a comprehensive overhaul of the health care systemⁱ ➤ States that Americans should have more control of their health care optionsⁱ ➤ Proposes a shift from employer-based to consumer-based health careⁱ ➤ Proposes making health care more affordableⁱ ➤ Shift focus from treatment to preventionⁱⁱ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Supports tax-deductible medical savings accounts combined with catastrophic insuranceⁱⁱⁱ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Believes that insurance reforms should increase the variety and affordability of insurance coverage available to American families by fostering competition and innovation throughout the health care system^{xv} ➤ Proposes reforming the tax code to eliminate the emphasis on employer-sponsored health insurance^{xv} ➤ Emphasis on preventing chronic diseases^{iv} ➤ Emphasizes containing costs^{iv} ➤ Health insurance policies will be available to small businesses and the self-employed, will be portable across jobs, and will automatically bridge the time between retirement and Medicare eligibility^{xv} ➤ Promote personal responsibility for health^{xv} 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Rethink entire health care system^v ➤ Let free market determine health care costs to increase patient choice^v ➤ “Unravel” the HMO system^v ➤ Revise the tax code to allow individuals to fully deduct healthcare costs from their taxes^v
Implementation Timeline	No information found	No information found	No information found	No information found

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Mandatory Requirement to Obtain Insurance & Structure of Coverage	➤ Opposes universal health care mandate by Federal edict ⁱ	No information found	➤ Does not require all Americans to buy health insurance ^{vi}	➤ Opposed to Federal mandate ^{vii}
Employer Mandate	➤ Proposes shift from employer-based to consumer-based health care ⁱ	No information found	➤ Allow individuals, small businesses and self-employed to purchase insurance through any organization or association. Plans would have to meet rigorous standards and certification procedures ^{xv}	No information found
Costs of Plan	No information found	No information found	No information found	No information found
How Costs are Covered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Advocates policies that will encourage private sector to seek innovative ways to reduce costs and increase free market options for health care servicesⁱ ➤ Proposes reforming medical liability, adopting electronic record keeping, making health insurance more portable, expanding health savings accounts to everyone, and making health insurance tax deductible for individuals and familiesⁱ ➤ Low income families would get tax credits instead of deductionsⁱ ➤ Make health insurance tax deductible for individuals and familiesⁱ 	No information found	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Tax credit of \$2,500 to low-income individuals and \$5,000 to low-income families who obtain their own insurance^{iv}, ➤ Increase availability of health savings accounts (HSAs)^{vi} ➤ Link doctor and hospital compensation to performance, starting with Medicaid and Medicare reimbursements^{iv} ➤ Offer grants to states to defray the cost of providing insurance for people with medical problems who can't afford their own coverage^{viii} 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Change the tax code to allow individuals and employers to fully deduct healthcare costs from their taxes^v ➤ Provide doctors the freedom to collectively negotiate with insurance companies^{ix} ➤ Reform licensure requirements so that pharmacists and nurses can perform some functions to increase access to care and lower costs^{ix}
Estimated Savings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Aims to reduce health care costs from 17% to 11% of GDPⁱ ➤ \$700 billion/yearⁱ 	No information found	No information found	No information found
Insurance Pools	No information found	No information found	No information found	No information found
New Federal/Public Plans	➤ Eliminate taxes for Medicare and Social Security, to be replaced by a "Fair Tax" (a	No information found	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Permit providers to practice nationwide^{xv} ➤ Coverage would bridge the time 	➤ Make Americans eligible for a Health Savings Account (HSA) by removing the requirement

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	consumption tax on all things but necessities) ^{xvii}		between retirement and Medicare eligibility ^{xv}	that they must obtain a high deductible insurance policy to open an account ^{xiii} ➤ Permit senior citizens to use Health Savings Accounts to buy Medigap policies (insurance that provides coverage beyond that offered by Medicare) ^{xiii} ➤ Waive the worker's portion of Social Security payroll or self-employment taxes for individuals with life-threatening cancer and other serious illnesses, and for those who are primary caregivers with a sick spouse or child ^{xiii}
Veterans' Health Care Initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Supports mandatory rather than discretionary mechanism for funding Veterans' health care^x ➤ Veterans have a right to obtain full explanation of all benefits and assistance in obtaining these benefits^x ➤ Veterans claims processed within six months^x ➤ Veterans have the right to obtain state-of-the-art treatment for traumatic brain injuries^x ➤ Provide disabled veterans with both their military retirement and VA compensation^x ➤ Provide wounded Reserve troops with the same treatment as their active duty counterparts until their claims have been processed^x 	No Information found	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Will make health care for veterans his top domestic priority^{xi} ➤ Ensure adequate funding to provide quality health care for veterans^{xii} ➤ Give veterans a card to use at any health-care center to eliminate waiting for routine care at veterans' hospitals^{xi} ➤ Provide veterans with the flexibility to carry their VA dollars to a health professionals in the community that provide them with timely, high quality care^{xv} ➤ All military retirees (even if they are not eligible for VA health care) should be provided with access to health care^{xii} ➤ Federal government should ease the burden of health care costs for military and veterans^{xii} ➤ Provide equal treatment of disabled veterans under the 	No information found

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			retirement system ^{xii} ➤ Veterans' hospitals should focus on treating post-traumatic stress disorder, burns and other combat wounds ^{xi}	
State Flexibility	➤ Allow states to act as laboratories for new market-based approaches for coverage ⁱ	No information found	➤ Give states the flexibility and encourage them to experiment with: alternative forms of access; risk-adjusted payments per episode covered under Medicaid; use of private insurance in Medicaid; alternative insurance policies and insurance providers; and, different licensing protocols for medical providers ^{xv}	No information found
Medicaid	No information found	No information found	➤ Require any state receiving Medicaid to develop a financial "risk adjustment" bonus to high-cost cases and low-income families to supplement tax credits and Medicaid funds ^{xv}	No information found
Coverage for Children	No information found	No information found	➤ Expand the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) ^{vi}	➤ Create a \$500 per child tax credit for prescription drugs and medical expenses not covered by insurance ^{xiii} ➤ Provide a \$3,000 tax credit for dependent children with cancer, disabilities, or terminal illnesses ^{xiii}
Health Insurance Regulations/ Eligibility	No information found	No information found	➤ Allow families to purchase health insurance nationwide, across state lines ^{xv} ➤ Protect consumers by vigorous enforcement of Federal protections against collusion, unfair business actions, and deceptive consumer practices ^{xv}	➤ Allow Americans to buy health insurance across state lines to lower costs ^v
Public Reporting	➤ Emphasizes the need for greater	No information found	➤ Require transparency by health	No information found

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& Transparency	cost transparency for patients ^{xiv}		providers regarding medical outcomes, quality of care, costs, and prices ^{xv} ➤ Provide the public with more information on treatment options ^{xv}	
Improving Quality and Performance of Health System	No information found	No information found	➤ Facilitate the development of national standards for measuring and recording treatment outcomes ^{xv} ➤ Reform Medicare payment systems to compensate providers for appropriate diagnosis, prevention, and care coordination ^{xv} ➤ Would not allow Medicare to reimburse for preventable medical errors or mismanagement ^{xv}	No information found
Health IT** <u>For more information</u>	➤ Adopt electronic medical records ⁱ ➤ Create portable medical records managed by individual patients ⁱⁱ	No information found	➤ Promote rapid deployment of 21st century information systems ^{xv} ➤ Employ telemedicine in areas where services and providers are limited ^{xv}	➤ Opposes a government-funded database containing personal health information ^{xiii} ➤ Maintain doctor-patient confidentiality and fight any government efforts to endanger medical privacy ^{xiii}
Malpractice/ Professional Liability	➤ Reform medical liability ⁱ ➤ Limit the amount of damages that can be awarded in medical malpractice lawsuits ⁱⁱ	➤ Cap malpractice awards ^{xvi}	➤ Pass tort reform to eliminate “frivolous” lawsuits and excessive damage awards ^{xv} ➤ Provide a “safe harbor” for doctors that follow clinical guidelines and adhere to patient safety protocols ^{xv}	➤ Allow the purchase of “negative outcomes” insurance prior to surgery or other serious medical treatments that guarantee those harmed receive fair compensation ^{xiii}
Increasing Drug Availability and Reducing Their Costs	➤ Believes a truly free-market system will drive down drug prices ^{xvii} ➤ Does not support the importation or re-importation of prescription drugs ^{xvii}	➤ Promotes the use of generic drugs ^{xviii} ➤ Permit the importation of lower cost prescription drugs from Canada and Europe ⁱⁱⁱ	➤ Calls for greater competition in drug markets by safe re-importation of drugs and faster introduction of generic drugs ^{iv} ➤ Foster the development of safe, cheaper generic versions of drugs and biologic	➤ Allow prescription drugs to be imported from foreign countries where they cost less than in the U.S. ^{xiii} ➤ End subsidies to insurance and pharmaceutical companies and cut unnecessary FDA

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			pharmaceuticals ^{xv} ➤ Develop safety protocols that permit re-importation to promote competition ^{xv}	regulations ^{xiii} ➤ Streamline the FDA approval process to make new prescription drugs available more quickly ^{xiii}
Disease Prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Emphasizes preventionⁱ ➤ Create incentives for food stamp recipients to buy nutritious food^{xvii} ➤ Provide incentives for healthy lifestyles to lower health insurance costs (just as safe drivers get lower rates)^{xix} ➤ Believes employers should permit exercise breaks during the workday^{xix} ➤ Employers should allow days off to be used for any reason, so that healthy employees aren't penalized by getting less time off^{xix} ➤ Health insurance should cover smoking cessation plans^{xix} ➤ Supports a nationwide ban on smoking in public places^{xvii} 	➤ Include information about the importance of diet and health ⁱⁱⁱ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Emphasizes importance of prevention^{iv} ➤ Expand community health centers^{vi} ➤ Supports public health initiatives to stem growing epidemic of obesity and diabetes, and to deter smoking^{xv} ➤ Supports innovative delivery systems, such as clinics in retail stores^{xv} ➤ Promote education of children about health, nutrition, and exercise^{xv} 	No information found
Chronic Disease Management	➤ Emphasizes chronic disease management to control costs ⁱ	➤ Emphasis on chronic disease management ^{xviii}	➤ Alter reimbursement for treatment of chronic disease ^{iv}	No information found
Long Term Care	No information found	No information found	No information found	No information found
Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services	No information found	No information found	No information found	No information found
Eliminating Health Disparities	No information found	No information found	No information found	No information found
Health Workforce Issues	No information found	No information found	No information found	No information found
Research Investments***	➤ Supports federal funding of research using existing stem cell lines ^{xx}	➤ Against research involving embryonic stem cells ^{xviii}	➤ Provide Federal research funds on the basis of sound science resulting in greater focus on	➤ Believes there is no constitutional authority for the Federal government to fund

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<u>For more information</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Supports umbilical cord stem cell research^{xxi} 		<p>care and cure of chronic disease^{xv}</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Supports embryonic stem cell research using human embryos left over from fertility treatments^{xxi} ➤ Opposes embryonic stem cell research that uses cloned human embryos^{xxi} 	stem cell research ^{xiii}
Special Disease Initiatives: Cancer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Give cancer patients more access to experimental therapies^{xvii} ➤ Waive deductibles and co-pays for early detection screenings (such as mammograms, colonoscopies and PSA tests)^{xix} ➤ Supports \$150 million for the Department of Defense Peer-Reviewed Breast Cancer Research Program^{xix} ➤ Enact the Breast Cancer Environmental Research Act^{xix} ➤ Supports preservation of the Medicaid Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Program^{xix} 	No information found	No information found	No information found
Special Disease Initiatives: HIV/AIDS**** <u>For more information</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ His Administration will establish an overarching strategy for dealing with HIV/AIDS in the U.S.^{xxii} ➤ Supports reauthorization of PEPFAR and the current Administration's proposal to double the U.S. commitment from \$15 billion to \$30 over the next five years^{xxiii} ➤ Strategy will create partnerships between the public and private sectors^{xxii} ➤ Increase funding for HIV/AIDS research, including research at the NIH^{xxii} ➤ Expand Medicaid to cover 	No information found	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ States that fighting disease and extreme poverty in Africa is in America's strategic and moral interests^{xxv} ➤ Supports abstinence until marriage sex education and HIV/AIDS domestic prevention programs^{xxv} ➤ Supports PEPFAR^{xxv} ➤ Will fund AIDS treatment and prevention programs in Africa^{xxv} 	No information found

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	<p>HIV+ individuals^{xxii}</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ States that a priority must be ending the disproportionate impact of AIDS in minority communities^{xxii} ➤ Supports abstinence until marriage sex education and HIV/AIDS domestic prevention programs^{xxiv} ➤ States that the U.S. has both a strategic interest and a moral obligation to lead the global fight against HIV/AIDS^{xxii} 			
Special Disease Initiatives: Autism	No information found	No information found	No information found	No information found
Public Health Preparedness Initiatives	No information found	No information found	No information found	No information found
Global Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ See AIDS initiatives above ➤ Supports an increase in the U.S. commitment to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and malaria^{xxiii} ➤ Widely distribute new malaria vaccine^{xxiii} ➤ Increase availability of insecticide-treated nets to prevent malaria^{xxiii} ➤ Reduce maternal and infant mortality by increasing the number and skills of health workers who provide pre-natal, delivery, and post-partum care^{xxiii} ➤ Reduce childhood deaths from measles, diarrhea, and malnutrition through vaccinations, clean water, and the provision of basic health care (including vitamin A and oral rehydration)^{xxiii} 	No information found	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Eradicate malaria from the African continent^{xxvi} ➤ Work to eradicate childbirth disabilities and childhood diseases in poorer countries^{xxvi} 	No information found

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	➤ Build water and sanitation infrastructure and invest in increasing agricultural productivity in the developing world ^{xxiii}			

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** For detailed information on the Presidential candidates’ health information technology plans, please see [U.S. Presidential Candidates' Health Plans: Incorporating Information Technology to Provide 21st Century Care](#) by Susan Blumenthal, M.D. et al.

*** For detailed information on the Presidential candidates’ medical and scientific research plans, please see [U.S. Presidential Candidates' Health Care Plans: Scientific and Medical Research Proposals](#) by Susan Blumenthal, M.D. et al.

**** For detailed information on the Presidential candidates’ HIV/AIDS plans, please see [U.S. Presidential Candidates' Health Care Plans 2008: HIV/AIDS Proposals -- A Time for Leadership](#) by Susan Blumenthal M.D., et al.

While efforts have been made to make these charts on the Presidential candidates’ proposals on HIV/AIDS as comprehensive as possible, this information is intended to be used as a non-partisan reference only and does not necessarily represent the opinions of sponsoring organizations.

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