



Donald L. Carcieri
Governor

NEWS

Office of the Governor

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GOVERNOR CARCIERI ENDORSES FEDERAL VALUE-DRIVEN HEALTH CARE INITIATIVE

Rhode Island is a National Leader in Developing a Health Care Information Network

Governor Donald L. Carcieri today signed a Statement of Support for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' initiative to promote value-driven health care. Governor Carcieri noted that Rhode Island has been a national leader in utilizing health care information technology to lower costs and increase quality.

Governor Carcieri delivered his remarks during a breakfast with local business leaders and Alex M. Azar II, the Deputy Health and Human Services Secretary, who was in the state to review the federal "Four Cornerstones of Value-Driven Health Care" plan for health programs that offer meaningful, consistent information to create a better quality and lower-cost health care system.

The Governor said that Rhode Island has taken a leadership role in addressing the "four cornerstones" of the federal government's health care initiative. "One year ago, I launched my comprehensive health care reform agenda," Governor Carcieri said. "And we are making great strides to improve Rhode Island's system of care by 2010 that focuses on wellness; a balanced delivery system; anywhere, anytime health care information, affordable health insurance, and smart state purchasing."

Governor Carcieri outlined what Rhode Island is doing to create a more efficient and lower cost system of health care. In bold are the federal HHS' four cornerstones followed by Rhode Island's role in each of these areas.

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Support Health Information Technology

- Under Governor Carcieri, Rhode Island is the lead state in the country in advancing electronic prescribing
- Rhode Island has developed an innovative public/private partnership through the Rhode Island Quality Institute that seeks to increase the number of physician offices that utilize electronic health records.
- The state Department of Health has received a federal contract to build an initial health information exchange for clinical information to be shared in a secure and confidential manner.

Provide Quality Information

- Governor Carcieri signed legislation that establishes public reporting of hospital and nursing home quality and consumer satisfaction measures using national standards.

Provide Pricing Information

- Governor Carcieri proposed and signed legislation creating pricing transparency that establishes a joint provider/health insurance group to determine how to disclose to consumers pricing information for services. That report is due in March.

Promote Quality & Efficiency of Care

- Governor Carcieri signed legislation establishing a new Wellness Health Benefit Plan to encourage the utilization of high quality, efficient providers and promote wellness and prevention.
- The state has received national grants to work with health plans to change the way that primary care providers get paid for taking care of the most expensive chronic conditions, such as asthma and diabetes.
- Under Governor Carcieri, Rhode Island, as a purchaser, will contract for high-quality, cost-effective care through its purchase of health care for state employees and their families, retired employees and Medicaid.

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