



Editorial Comment

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When I read the news or watch them on TV, I see presidential candidates exposing their views of how to solve the problems our nation face. The increases in healthcare costs and the large number of uninsured patients is something that they all like to talk about. They all say their plan is unique but in reality most candidates have similar views regarding how to fix the problem. We can only hope that whoever gets elected seriously tries to do something and correct the situation.

All leading democratic candidates including Clinton, Obama and Edwards believe in some variation of universal health care paid by the government. Obama believes it should be mandatory only for children and Clinton and Edwards will mandate it to all Americans paid by reversing tax cuts.

In the republican side, Giuliani believes in tax credits for those buying private insurance and health savings accounts. Romney believes in mandatory health care insurance but places the responsibility on the individuals with fines to those who do not comply. Huckabee believes in universal health care and capping malpractice claims.

Irrespective of which approach you support, it is important that we keep ourselves and our patients informed about these plans. Through professional organizations, we need to hold elected officials accountable for their promises. Something needs to be done to stop this crisis. We can not continue with growing numbers of uninsured patients, escalating costs of medications and therapies, decrease in reimbursement rates for services provided and escalating malpractice settlements.

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