



August 2008

Dear Health Care Professional:

We write to tell you about the **health care reform bill** that Governor Pawlenty signed into law on May 29 and a Web site where you can learn more about it. The bill consists of a package of reforms encompassing recommendations from the Legislative Commission on Health Care Access, the Governor's Health Care Transformation Task Force, Healthy Minnesota and others. Many of you contributed to the development of the final legislation, and we thank you for your involvement. Together, we are on a journey to **quality, affordable, accessible health care for all Minnesotans**.

The **health care reform bill includes the following components**, all designed to work together to improve health and health care in Minnesota:

- The Statewide Health Improvement Program, focusing on reducing obesity and tobacco use.
- Increased transparency of cost and quality health care information.
- Payment reforms including the development of health care homes for people with complex or chronic health conditions.
- Increased access including expanded eligibility for MinnesotaCare and changes allowing more Minnesotans to pay for health care with pre-tax dollars.
- Implementation of electronic prescriptions by 2011.
- Administrative simplifications to improve value.

You can find more information about the reforms and how they will be implemented at www.health.state.mn.us/healthreform.

As we evaluated the important work that the Legislature and Governor Pawlenty entrusted us to do, we felt it was important to establish **a set of principles to guide** our work. We invite you to join us in applying these principles:

1. The purpose of the health care reform initiative is to improve the health of Minnesotans and to redesign care to improve value.
2. We must "start with the end in mind" and always remain focused on what we want to accomplish and what success looks like.
3. To ensure that all Minnesotans benefit, we will aim for market-wide implementation of health reforms—not just reforms for government programs.
4. We will seek—and expect—unprecedented collaboration among public and private partners as we implement the comprehensive health reform initiative.

We plan to seek input from consumers, patients, providers, and other stakeholders moving forward. Some of that input will come from the 14-member Health Care Reform Review Council that will be established this summer, and through a process of consumer engagement. A number of additional work groups will be formed in the future.

Thank you for your interest in improving health and health care in Minnesota. We look forward to continuing to work together on these important reforms, and we encourage you to share this information with others in your organization.

Sincerely,

Sanne Magnan, MD, PhD
Commissioner
Minnesota Department of Health
P.O. Box 64975
St. Paul, MN 55164-0975

Cal R. Ludeman
Commissioner
Minnesota Department of Human Services
PO Box 64998
St. Paul, MN 55164-0998

Minnesota Department of Health
General Information: 651-201-5000 • Toll-free: 888-345-0823 • TTY: 651-201-5797 • www.health.state.mn.us
An equal opportunity employer

Minnesota Department of Human Services
General Information: 651-431-2000 • www.dhs.state.mn.us
An equal opportunity employer