

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
MEMORANDUM

February 7, 1997

Desk file
Events
H.C. - Ideas

TO: Rahm Emanuel
Ann Lewis

FROM: Chris Jennings *CCJ*

SUBJECT: Health Care Events

CC: Bruce Reed
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As you requested, following is a description of potential Presidential events on health care. Except for the event on home health quality, the scheduling of these events have time constraints over which we have little control. As a result, we should probably schedule these events quickly to maximize the President's ability to be involved.

① Improving Home Care Quality

Purpose: To highlight the Administration's commitment to assuring high quality Medicare home health services. Validation for the need for these new home health regulations will come from aging advocates (e.g., AARP), non-profit health care providers (e.g., National Association of Home Care), and the Department of Health and Human Services.

Status: The regulations described have been cleared and may be released at any time. One week's notice will be needed to get appropriate validation from outside groups.

② Medicaid Anti-Gag Clarification

Purpose: To underscore the President's support of bipartisan legislation to ensure that all health plans do not restrict communication between health care providers and their patients. The President recently took action to clarify that all Medicare beneficiaries have this protection.

Status: The clarification is ready to go; its release should not be delayed much beyond late February or the news value may be lost. (Already some states may be sending out similar directives to their managed care contractors based on their sense that this clarification is coming).

Support bipartisan Wyder-Booke-Waxman

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Feb. 20th

⑥ Fighting Fraud and Abuse

Purpose: The Inspector General and the Department of Justice has scheduled a major announcement on fraud and abuse enforcement activities in clinical labs. In particular, this event could highlight Federal efforts to collect \$500 million in overpayments. Combined with a series of legislative and regulatory initiatives, a strong event may be developed. (As you know, the public attributes rising health care costs to health care fraud and abuse).

Status: Scheduled for release around February 25.

⑥ Charging the Quality Commission to Develop a "Consumer Bill of Rights"

Purpose: To make a formal announcement of the members of the Advisory Commission on Quality and Consumer Protection in the Health Care Industry and charge the Advisory Commission to develop a "health care consumer bill of rights." This Advisory Commission will have broad representation by: consumers, health care professionals, health care insurers, state and local government and experts on health care quality. This event will be well received by most health advocates and provider groups who are concerned about managed care practices, but are also starting to become concerned about "rifle-shot" approaches to federal oversight of managed care.

Status: Ready in early March.

Tues/Mar. 4th

✓ ⑥ Assuring care for women after a mastectomy (tentatively scheduled for the First Lady)

Purpose: To demonstrate the President's support for legislation to guarantee that a woman can stay in the hospital for 48 hours after a mastectomy. Representative DeLauro, the bill's primary sponsor, will hold an event this week to collect petitions in support of her legislation. This event could be combined with an announcement by the Department of Health and Human Services, presented by Secretary Shalala at her Ways & Means hearing on Wednesday morning, to clarify that Medicare already provides this coverage to the over 50,000 elderly women who need it every year. (DHHS is ready to go with this).

Status: Tentatively scheduled for this Wednesday in the East Room.

- ② HHS report on ^{models of} medicine's outreach - Florida radio address 3/15
- ③ Fraud & Abuse bill, ~~late March~~ 1st anniv. of Restoring Trust, early May.