



Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association

THERE TO CARE: INVESTING IN A HEALTHY ARIZONA

2010 ADVOCACY PRINCIPLES

- H Promoting Patient Safety** AzHHA supports legislative efforts to protect patients' safety and ensure the continuing availability of well-coordinated emergency care, including services provided by physician specialists, to all patients in a wide range of hospitals.
- H Payment that Promotes Wellness and Rewards Efficiency** AzHHA supports national and state initiatives to reform payment systems to promote wellness and reward efficient providers. Payment systems should:
 - Encourage and reward high-quality care with a focus on preventive care and wellness;
 - Align incentives among payors, providers and consumers to maximize the efficiency and coordination of health services based on accepted practice and evidence-based delivery models and protocols;
 - Recognize appropriate total costs for the efficient delivery of necessary healthcare services that are consistent with evidence-based, high-quality care and the advancement of medical science;
 - Be simplified, standard and transparent;
 - Identify and explicitly pay for broad societal benefits such as medical and public education, medical research, and care for disenfranchised and uninsured persons; and
 - Promote timely and efficient payment for hospital and physician services.
- H Healthcare Reform** AzHHA supports the American Hospital Association's proposed national framework for change, *Health for Life: Better Health. Better Health Care. Health for Life* identifies five essential elements of reform necessary to achieve better health and better healthcare:
 - A focus on wellness—As health status improves, costs of health insurance and healthcare can be better controlled.
 - The most efficient, affordable care—Consumers will not be satisfied until the cost of insurance and the cost of healthcare are affordable.

- The highest quality care—Healthcare professionals, hospitals, patients and others must work together to make sure the right care is given at the right time in the right setting.
- The best information—Good information is the gateway to good care.
- Health coverage for all paid for by all—Individuals, businesses, insurers and governments must all play a role in expanding coverage and paying for it. Health coverage for all is a shared responsibility.

H Medical Liability Reform AzHHA supports efforts to ensure the availability of affordable professional liability insurance, including state and federal tort reform efforts.

H Strengthening the Healthcare Workforce AzHHA supports legislative initiatives that build upon Arizona hospitals' significant financial investments in partnerships with universities and community colleges to foster a sufficient supply of well-prepared nurses, medical technologists, radiologic technologists, pharmacy technicians, and other allied health professionals. AzHHA opposes proposals that restrict healthcare professionals' ability to provide high-quality, cost-effective care, including mandatory nurse staffing ratios.

H Community Access to Coordinated Healthcare Services AzHHA supports legislative efforts to make essential healthcare services, including trauma care, emergency, and specialty care, available to all Arizonans. AzHHA supports legislative and regulatory efforts to eliminate barriers to providing integrated, coordinated healthcare services to Arizona communities. AzHHA supports efforts to improve the expediency of government procedures, such as licensing.

H Protecting Vulnerable Populations AzHHA supports efforts to protect and improve access to healthcare coverage and services for vulnerable populations, including the medically needy, children, persons with mental illness, chemically dependent persons, the elderly, and the uninsured.

H Maintaining Cost-Effectiveness of Healthcare AzHHA opposes additional regulation of healthcare facilities, healthcare systems and healthcare professionals, as well as other unnecessary governmental mandates that are not in the best interest of cost-effective, high-quality healthcare.

H Market-Based Managed Care Approaches AzHHA supports market-based managed care initiatives that promote patient choice, high-quality care, affordability, accessibility, and network adequacy. AzHHA supports legislative efforts that balance consumer protection and cost-containment interests. Managed care benefits should be consistent with providers' legal obligations to provide care.

H Preserving Tax-Exempt Status of Nonprofit Healthcare Organizations AzHHA supports the continuation of tax-exempt status for nonprofit, charitable hospitals, foundations and healthcare organizations and recognizes the important role of both investor-owned and nonprofit healthcare organizations.

H Ensuring Hospital Preparedness AzHHA supports efforts to ensure hospitals are prepared to respond to conventional disasters, such as floods, fires, and outbreaks of communicable diseases, as well as the threat of attacks that use chemical, biological or radiological agents. AzHHA believes federal and state support is critical to the ability of hospitals to respond to any emergency, including emergencies in other states.