

A look at the broader Biden healthcare agenda

Beyond the initiatives directly tied to COVID relief (as discussed above), President Biden's healthcare agenda includes a broader bolstering of the protections and coverage mechanisms in the Affordable Care Act (ACA), as well as the rollback of several of the previous administration's regulatory changes. We've outlined that agenda in the graphic below, as well as highlighting key members of the Biden healthcare team. While much will depend on how the COVID pandemic continues to unfold, and how successful Biden is at striking bipartisan compromises with a closely divided Congress, we're watching closely for the answers to several key questions: (1) how aggressive can and will the new administration be in unwinding Trump-era reforms, particularly regarding **Medicaid work requirements**; (2) what will be the thrust of Biden's **antitrust policy** in the healthcare space; (3) how hard will Biden be willing to push for **expanded subsidies** for individuals purchasing insurance on the ACA exchanges; (4) how will the Biden team build on the **transparency measures** implemented by the Trump administration; and (5) how will the new administration use payment reforms and other regulations to address **racial and other disparities in healthcare**? All of that preceded by one burning question that has us holding our breath: **who will Biden pick to run the all-important Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services?**

President Biden's Immediate Healthcare Agenda

Key Healthcare Proposals of the New Administration

Bold items already issued/signed

Executive/Regulatory Actions	Legislative Actions
<p>Already Proposed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build a national vaccine program, partnering with state and local governments, tribes Implement mask mandate on federal property, and some forms of public transport Increase testing capacity and capabilities Improve and expand access to treatments Expand domestic manufacturing of critical medical supplies and pharmaceuticals Authorize OSHA¹ to create stringent COVID-19 protection standards Create health equity task force Rejoin World Health Organization, join COVAX² 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand public health workforce and infrastructure Funding for states to deploy "strike teams" to long-term care facilities for COVID outbreaks Increase federal Medicaid match for COVID-19 vaccines Increase value of subsidies for ACA⁴ plans, lowering income cap to 8.5% Subsidize continuation of COBRA⁵ coverage
<p>Likely in Near Term</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open ACA special enrollment period, reinstate funding for enrollment outreach Revise state waivers regarding work requirements, block grants, and other barriers to Medicaid enrollment Increase oversight of healthcare mergers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain telehealth flexibilities Expand immigrants' access to ACA coverage Provide states additional Medicaid enrollment funding Allow negotiation of Medicare drug prices
<p>Achieve by issuing Executive Orders, stopping or reversing previous regulations³</p>	<p>Achieve by focusing on areas of bipartisan support, use of budget reconciliation process</p>

Healthcare Team



Xavier Becerra⁴
Health and Human Services Secretary



Rochelle Walensky, MD
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director



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Surgeon General



Jeff Zients
COVID-19 Response Coordinator



Anthony Fauci, MD
Chief Medical Advisor



- Occupational Safety and Health Administration.
- Global effort to ensure every country has access to COVID vaccines.
- Intervening before published in Federal Register or via Congressional Review Act for regulations done in last 60 days of prior Congress.
- Affordable Care Act.
- Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act.
- Requires Senate confirmation.

Source: "Policy Outlook with a Biden Administration," PricewaterhouseCoopers, Nov. 2020. Web. 18 Dec 2020; What's Next for Health Care Policy Under a Biden Administration, California Health Foundation, Nov. 2020. Web. 18 Dec 2020; Cox, Cynthia, and Jennifer Kates. "Potential Health Policy Administrative Actions Under President Biden," Kaiser Family Foundation, 8 Dec. 2020. Web. 18 Dec 2020; Owens, Caitlin. "Biden Announces Health Team," Tapp, California Attorney General Xavier Becerra to Lead HHS," Axios, 7 Dec. 2020. Web. 18 Dec 2020; "American Rescue Plan," Build Back Better, Biden Administration, 14 Jan 2020. Web. 20 Jan. 2020; "National Strategy for the COVID-19 Response and Pandemic Preparedness," Joe Biden, 21 Jan 2020. Web. 21 Jan. 2020 Gist Healthcare analysis.