
What Does Health Care Reform Mean For Physicians?

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Last month we saw historic changes made to our nation's health care system when President Obama signed into law the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010, as amended by the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010. The Act will require the purchase of health insurance for nearly 95% of our nation's population which equates to roughly 32 million more insured Americans by 2014. Such an increase in insured Americans should spurn an increase in business for many physicians and physician group practices, though it will be quite some time before we fully understand the legislation's impact. Of course, in addition to requiring the purchase of health insurance by so many Americans, the Act also contains provisions that will affect almost every sector of the health care industry in several significant ways, including provisions relating to fraud and abuse, program integrity and quality of care.

This Alert focuses on some of the most significant provisions in the Act that relate to physicians and physician group practices, including those provisions that impact physicians in connection with their status as employers.

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