



TEXAS HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

## TEXAS HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION HEALTH CARE REFORM PRINCIPLES

### **Access**

- All individuals living in Texas should have access to appropriate levels of health care.

### **Personal Accountability**

- Individuals should have personal accountability for their health status, with incentives for healthy lifestyles.
- Individuals should be responsible for maintaining adequate levels of health care coverage and paying a realistic portion of the cost for their health care, except for those living below 200 percent of the federal poverty level or are covered by a state or federal health care program.

### **Quality**

- Medically necessary evidenced-based health care should promote safety, reduce errors and minimize risks of harm to patients and health care professionals.
- Patients and families should be informed of their costs, benefits, risks and alternatives for treatment options.

### **Financing**

- Health care should be financed through a combination of public and private funding sources with clearly defined criteria, roles and responsibilities for government, businesses/employers, payers, individuals and providers.
- The state should invest more resources in health care services so that programs are adequately funded to meet the needs of enrollees and accurately reflect population growth. Texas should reduce its reliance on local taxes to fund its health care programs, maximize federal funds and recognize that adequate health care infrastructure resources are limited by the state's below-average per capita tax structure.
- The state should support a more equitable approach to funding indigent care, and maximize federal funding through the use of additional state and/or local tax dollars.
- Health care providers should be paid for services rendered in a timely and efficient manner, with each payer source bearing the full cost of care provided to its enrollees or beneficiaries.
- Economic incentives should be realigned to encourage the efficient use of health care resources, to minimize conflicts of interest, and to eliminate waste and inefficiencies.
- In an insurance-based model, health care coverage should be affordable and accessible to individuals and families, and should be regulated uniformly by government.

### **Delivery System**

- The health care system should focus on prevention and wellness, with an emphasis on preventive and primary care.
- Health care should be organized and delivered to maximize the efficient and appropriate use of resources – coordinated across geographic regions and provider settings – and account for community variations in needs and resources.
- Health information technology should be enhanced to promote the efficient exchange of medical information.
- Consumers should have access to information about costs, performance, outcomes and patient satisfaction regarding providers and payers to facilitate informed decision making.
- State and local Public Health infrastructures should supplement the health care delivery system.

### **Human Resources**

- The health care system should have an adequate supply of culturally-diverse and appropriately educated and trained health care professionals.

*Adopted October 9, 2006*