



National Health Council

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Leading National Patient Advocacy Organization Applauds New Regulations to Make Insurance Claims Appeal Process More Uniform & Patient Focused

(July 22, 2010) Washington, DC -- The National Health Council (NHC) released the following statement in support of today's White House announcement of new federal regulations to strengthen patients' rights to appeal health insurance denials. The following statement is from Myrl Weinberg, President of the NHC:

People with chronic conditions make up the largest segment of users of health care in this country. They require care and treatment that will allow them to live the healthiest, most productive lives possible. It is essential that they be able to obtain and *retain* coverage and care that meet their individual health care needs.

The steps taken today by the Obama Administration will provide patients with an understandable, predictable internal and external appeals process. It's the right thing to do. It's a fair solution for patients -- particularly those living with chronic diseases and disabilities.

We are also pleased that \$30 million has been allocated for strengthening state-based consumer assistance offices. This is a critical step to improving patient awareness of their rights.

The regulations can be viewed at <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/pdf/2010-18043.pdf>.

Founded in 1920, the NHC is the only organization of its kind that brings together all segments of the health care community to provide a united voice for the more than 133 million people with chronic diseases and disabilities and their family caregivers. Made up of more than 100 national health-related organizations and businesses, its core membership includes approximately 50 of the nation's leading patient advocacy groups, which control its governing policies. Other members include professional and membership associations, nonprofit organizations with an interest in health, and major pharmaceutical, medical device, and biotechnology companies. To learn more, visit www.nationalhealthcouncil.org.

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