



What's Next For the Affordable Care Act

While the Affordable Care Act was passed in 2010 portions of the law still need to be implemented. Already children cannot be denied coverage because of a pre-existing condition, women's preventive services require no co-pay and young adults up to age 26 can stay on their parent's health insurance. Check out what is coming in the next two years as the Affordable Care Act is implemented in Colorado.

Affordable Care Act Timeline	
January 1, 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medicaid will cover certain necessary preventive services such as cancer and diabetes screening, immunizations and women's preventive services. • Primary care providers treating Medicaid patients will be compensated at that same rate as providers who treat Medicare patients through 2014. • National pilot programs for bundled payments will be implemented to lower costs of providing health care.
October 1, 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • States will receive two additional years of funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program to provide coverage to children not eligible for Medicaid
January 1, 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health insurance exchanges will open for business. • Tax credits will be available for those with incomes between 100% and 400% of the federal poverty level (FPL) to help purchase insurance in the Exchange. • Americans with incomes up to 133% of FPL (about \$14,000 for an individual and \$29,000 for a family of four) will be eligible for Medicaid. States can choose whether or not to expand their Medicaid program because of the Supreme Court's ruling on the Affordable Care Act. • The mandate requiring individuals to have insurance coverage goes into effect. • Patients' coverage cannot be dropped if they participate in a clinical trial. • Patients are no longer subject to annual limits on the amount of coverage an individual can receive. • Insurers cannot deny coverage based on pre-existing conditions. • Insurers cannot charge higher rates due to gender or health status. • Small employers may be eligible for a tax credit of up to 50% of their contribution. Non-profits may be eligible for the same tax credit up to 35%.

Resources to learn more about the Affordable Care act

- Stay updated on Colorado's health reform news from CCHI at www.cohealthinitiative.org
- Learn the top 10 reasons to support the Affordable Care Act at www.thanksobamacare.org
- Learn more about Colorado's Health Benefit Exchange at www.getcoveredco.org
- Learn more about national health reform and how you can benefit at www.HealthCare.gov
- See what other states are doing in health reform and how the Affordable Care Act impacts specific issues from the Kaiser Family Foundation at www.kff.org