

New Mexico

2021 Healthcare Affordability Policy Checklist

KEY

-  = implemented by state
-  = the state has implemented policies, but could improve
-  = not implemented by state

polling data repeatedly shows that healthcare affordability is the number one issue that state residents, on both sides of the political aisle, want their policymakers to work on. This checklist identifies areas where New Mexico is doing well and areas where it can improve.

1. CURB EXCESS HEALTHCARE PRICES:

- Implement free, public-facing healthcare price transparency that reflects negotiated rates and features treatment- and provider-specific prices. 
- Create an all-payer or multi-payer claims database to analyze healthcare price inflation, price variation and utilization. 
- Create a permanently convened health spending oversight entity. 
- Create all-payer healthcare spending and quality benchmarks for the state. 

2. REDUCE LOW-VALUE CARE:

- Require validated patient-safety reporting for hospitals. 
- Universally implement antibiotic stewardship programs using CDC's 7 Core Elements. 
- Analyze claims and EHR data to understand how much is spent on low- and no-value services. 

3. EXTEND COVERAGE TO ALL RESIDENTS:

- Expand Medicaid to cover adults up to 138% of the federal poverty level. 
- Provide high-quality, affordable coverage options for people whose incomes are too high to qualify for Medicaid, e.g., Basic Health Plan, reinsurance or augmented premium subsidies.¹ 
- Provide options for recent immigrants that don't qualify for the coverage above.² 
- Conduct strong rate review of fully insured, private market options. 

4. MAKE OUT-OF-POCKET COSTS AFFORDABLE:

- Protect patients from inadvertent surprise out-of-network medical bills. 
- Limit the availability of skimpy and confusing short-term, limited-duration health plans. 
- Waive or reduce cost-sharing for high-value services.³ 
- Require insurers in a state-based exchange to offer evidence-based standard plan designs.⁴ 

UPDATED AUGUST 2021

Additional detail is available at:

WWW.HEALTHCAREVALUEHUB.ORG/AFFORDABILITY-SCORECARD/NEW-MEXICO

NOTES

1. In 2019, the legislature provided funding to explore the policy and fiscal implications of offering a Medicaid buy-in plan (HM 9). The state funded a study that explored four different options: Basic Health Program; Qualified Health Plan Public Option; Medicaid Buy-In for All; and a Targeted Medicaid Buy-In (which would offer buy-in coverage outside of the Marketplace). The study found that a Targeted Medicaid Buy-In would reduce premiums by 15% - 28% compared to the marketplace and expand coverage to 7,000–16,000 individuals. In the 2019 legislative session, the House (HB 548) and Senate (SB 536) voted to appropriate funds to the Human Services Department in fiscal year 2020 to study and begin administrative development of a Medicaid Buy-In plan, as well as pursue federal funding through a waiver.
2. New Mexico provides coverage options to some undocumented and recent immigrants. Low-income refugees are eligible for Medicaid coverage for a maximum of eight months from when they enter the U.S. Medicaid also covers emergency services for individuals who meet all eligibility criteria for Medicaid except they are undocumented or do not meet qualifying immigration criteria. In 2021, legislation (HB 112) was introduced to provide state or local health benefits (such as primary care, preventative care, and behavioral healthcare) to non-citizens regardless of immigration status if they meet all other qualifying criteria.
3. Beginning on Jan. 1, 2021, New Mexico capped co-pays and out-of-pocket expenses for insulin at \$25 for a 30-day supply, establishing the lowest price cap in the country. Establishing legislation also required a study of the cost of prescription drugs for New Mexico consumers to be completed by Oct. 1, 2020.
4. Looking Ahead: The New Mexico Health Insurance Exchange will be transitioning from the healthcare.gov platform to a state-based exchange for plan year 2022, which could provide additional policy tools to help those that purchase in the small group and individual market.



ABOUT ALTARUM'S HEALTHCARE VALUE HUB

With support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Healthcare Value Hub provides free, timely information about the policies and practices that address high healthcare costs and poor quality, bringing better value to consumers. The Hub is part of Altarum, a nonprofit organization with the mission of creating a better, more sustainable future for all Americans by applying research-based and field-tested solutions that transform our systems of health and healthcare.

Contact the Hub: 2000 M Street, NW, Suite 400, Washington, DC 20036
(202) 828-5100 | www.HealthcareValueHub.org | [@HealthValueHub](https://twitter.com/HealthValueHub)