

HEARING TO DETERMINE THE 2024

HEALTH CARE COST GROWTH BENCHMARK



HPC POLICY PRIORITIES
David Seltz, Executive Director, HPC

The HPC employs four core strategies to realize its vision of better care, better health, and lower costs for all people of the Commonwealth.



MARKET MONITOR

Monitor and intervene when necessary to assure market performance

CONVENE

Bring together stakeholder community to influence their actions on a topic or problem



RESEARCH AND REPORT

Investigate, analyze, and report trends and insights

PARTNER

Engage with individuals, groups, and organizations to achieve mutual goals

HPC Agenda for Action (January – July 2023)



To kick off 2023, the HPC is pursuing an ambitious action plan to reduce health care cost growth, promote affordability, and advance equity, in addition to ongoing workstreams and responsibilities.

This comprehensive plan will prioritize disseminating data-driven insights and policy recommendations to address the critical challenges facing the health care system today: the workforce crisis, high costs, and persistent health inequities.

- **Bolster the HPC's Cost Containment Activities**
- **Address Health Care Workforce Challenges and Identify Solutions**
- **Advance Health Equity**
- **Enhance Pharmaceutical Pricing Transparency and Accountability**
- **Reduce Unnecessary Administrative Complexity**
- **Upcoming Topics of Actionable Research**

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Bolster the HPC's Cost Containment Activities: The HPC recommends legislative action to improve state oversight and accountability.



- **Target Above Benchmark Spending Growth.** The Commonwealth should take action to strengthen the Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) process, the HPC's primary mechanism for holding providers, payers, and other health care actors responsible for health care spending growth. Specifically, the HPC recommends that the metrics used by CHIA to identify and refer organizations to the HPC should be expanded to include measures that account for the underlying variation in provider pricing and baseline spending, and by establishing escalating financial penalties to deter excessive spending.
- **Constrain Excessive Provider and Pharmaceutical Prices.** The Commonwealth should take action to constrain excessive price levels, variation, and growth for health care services and pharmaceuticals, by imposing hospital price growth caps, enhancing scrutiny of provider mergers and expansions, limiting hospital facility fees, and expanding state oversight and transparency of the entire pharmaceutical sector, including how prices are set in relation to value.
- **Limit Increases in Health Insurance Premiums and Cost-Sharing.** The Commonwealth should take action to hold health insurance plans accountable for affordability and ensure that any savings that accrue to health plans are passed along to businesses and consumers, including by setting affordability targets and standards as part of the annual premium rate review process.

The HPC Policy Recommendations included within the 2022 Cost Trends Report reflect a comprehensive approach to reduce health care cost growth, promote affordability, and advance equity.

HPC SPECIAL EVENT

Building a Robust Health Care Workforce in Massachusetts: Findings, Challenges, and Opportunities

March 29, 2023
9:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Suffolk University Law School

REGISTER: <https://tinyurl.com/hcwf23>

Schedule of Upcoming Meetings



BOARD

April 12
*Vote on the 2024 Health Care
Cost Growth Benchmark*

June 7

July 12

September 13

December 13



Mass.gov/HPC



COMMITTEE

May 10

July 10

October 4



HPC-info@mass.gov



ADVISORY COUNCIL

May 24

September 20

December 6



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SPECIAL EVENTS

March 29
*Building a Robust Health Care
Workforce in Massachusetts*

November 1
Cost Trends Hearing



tinyurl.com/hpc-linkedin