US Healthcare Issues in the Political Debate

Presentation to the

Farm Policy Study Group
Objectives

• Overview of the Regenstrief Center for Healthcare Engineering

• Healthcare Issues in the Political Debate
  – The Sound Bites
  – Behind the Sound Bites

• Questions
REGENSTRIEF CENTER FOR HEALTHCARE ENGINEERING

Gerald D. & Edna E. Mann Hall
Core Research

Efficiency and Effectiveness

- modeling and simulation
- applications of new technology
- new models for healthcare delivery
- program and policy evaluation
- therapeutic optimization
- facility and environmental factors
Core Research

Safety and Quality

- Indiana Patient Safety Center
- Using evidenced-based guidelines
Core Research

Data Security and Interoperability

- Improving access to secure data
- Meaningful data exchange across IT applications
Why an Interest in Healthcare Policy

• Since 1980 healthcare costs have increased a twice the rate of inflation
• In 2006, Medicare costs jumped 22% resulting from Medicare Part D
• Government purchases almost 50% of all healthcare
• Businesses concerned with costs of health insurance in a global economy
• Medicare insolvency in 2019?
Health Policy Evaluation

• What benefits are provided

• Who will pay

• Do benefits balance
  – Costs
  – Access
  – Quality
Policy Similarities

• Reduce 47 million uninsured
  – Increase numbers covered by insurance programs
  – Increase enrollment in Medicaid and SCHIP
    (Differ on eligibility requirements)
• Reduce cost of healthcare
  – Increased personal responsibility to improve health
• Programs will increase the Federal budget
  – Budget differences are not quantified
• Favor increased contributions to HSAs
Private Payor Additional Burden


- Uninsured
- Medicare
- Medicaid
McCain – A “Call to Action”

• The key to reform is to restore control to patients
  – Market controls with tax incentives
• Make it easier for individuals and families to obtain innovative, portable and affordable insurance
  – Restructure individual insurance market
• No mandated insurance coverage
• States establish mandates and coverage
McCain – Plan Funding

- Eliminate income tax exclusions for health benefits
- Provide tax credit
  - $2,500 individual
  - $5,000 family
- Maintain Bush tax cuts permanently
Obama – Plan for a Healthy America

• Plan based on insurance options
  – employer funded health insurance
  – National Health Insurance Exchange
  – public plan
• Benefits will be the same as those available to Congress
• Parents mandated to purchase coverage for children
• Catastrophic illness assistance for employers
Obama – Plan Funding

- Unspecified penalty for employers and parents who do not provide coverage
  - Employers contribution – 6% of payroll
  - Parents dependent tax deduction
- Unspecified income subsidy for individual purchases through NHIE and public program
- Repeal aspects of Bush tax cuts
  - Household earning > $250,000
  - Raise capital gains tax on investment earnings – no more than 28%