



**FAQs – Ohio Health Care Coverage and Quality Council (HCCQC)
August 3, 2009**

Q: What is the State of Ohio doing to improve access to health coverage, improve quality, and contain costs?

A: Under Governor Ted Strickland’s leadership, Ohio has been working to expand access to health insurance coverage through a number of initiatives. The recently enacted state budget includes several provisions that will expand private health insurance coverage to an estimated 109,000 currently uninsured Ohioans. (Please see the Health Care Reform Provisions FAQs at www.insurance.ohio.gov for more information on these reforms.)

Over the past year, the state of Ohio has worked with private partners interested in health reform to identify strategies that will improve quality and contain costs – steps that are essential to maintaining access to affordable coverage and care. In order to advance these strategies and continue the work of reform, Governor Strickland issued an Executive Order in March 2009 creating the Ohio Health Care Coverage and Quality Council (HCCQC). The HCCQC, comprised of more than 30 public-private members representing diverse health care interests, consumers, and legislators, will facilitate the implementation of strategies to improve the quality and better control the cost of Ohio’s health care and coverage systems. The council was established in law in the state’s biennial budget that passed in July 2009.

Q: What is the charge of the HCCQC?

A: Led by Insurance Director Mary Jo Hudson, HCCQC Executive Director Cynthia Burnell and a diverse group of subject-matter experts, the council advises the Governor and General Assembly on strategies to improve health care programs and health insurance policies, studies health financing alternatives, recommends improvements in data reporting to increase transparency and consistency, recommends minimum coverage standards, supports the implementation of health information technology, and assists employers in adopting cafeteria plans.

The council is working to advance recommendations contained in the Ohio Health Quality Improvement Plan (OHQIP). In addition, the council will build upon Ohio’s participation in the State Coverage Initiative (SCI), which issued a report in July 2008, and other relative reports, accessible at www.healthcarereform.ohio.gov.

Q: How can I follow the activities of the HCCQC? Is there a specific web site dedicated to the council?

A: The council’s web site www.healthcarereform.ohio.gov/hccqc.aspx is the best resource to provide public input and seek information, such as meeting minutes and reports. The news release section on the Ohio Department of Insurance web site at www.insurance.ohio.gov/Newsroom/Pages/NewsTab.aspx also contains information about the council.

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Fraud Hotline: 1-800-686-1527

OSHIP Hotline: 1-800-686-1578

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Q: How were the council's board members selected?

A: Using subject-matter expertise and experience as the selection criteria, the Governor appointed state agency members and other individuals to represent health reform constituencies from all areas of the state to the council. State legislative leadership selected legislative members for the HCCQC. Please visit www.healthcarereform.ohio.gov/hccqc.aspx for a complete listing of the council members.

Q: How often does the HCCQC meet?

A: Meetings have been scheduled bi-monthly and the first one was held July 15, 2009. Please visit www.healthcarereform.ohio.gov/hccqc.aspx for up-to-date meeting information.

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