



Have a Voice in Federal Healthcare Reform

Many of the patients of The San Antonio Orthopaedic Group (TSAOG) have asked for our thoughts on the issues surrounding the proposed healthcare reform. As a result, the physicians of TSAOG wanted to collectively share our thoughts and encourage you to express your opinions with your United States Senators and Congressman.

As you may know, TSAOG has been delivering Orthopaedic Care to the San Antonio and surrounding communities for over 60 years. We have been proud to offer high quality physician-owned services to patients in our out-patient Orthopaedic Surgery Center, Imaging Center for advanced diagnostics (MRI, CT, as well as ultrasound) and Therapy Services departments (Physical Therapy, Hand Therapy and Industrial Rehabilitation programs). We take great pride in the services we provide and in our role in the community. In addition to being recognized for the medical care we deliver, we have also been recognized as one of the best places to work in San Antonio, employing more than 300 people.

TSAOG physicians have been following the National Healthcare debate closely, and have also been participating in this debate directly with Members of Congress. TSAOG has strong concerns regarding how proposed reforms could impact patients' access to required healthcare. TSAOG believes that we could only support a bill that includes the following:

- Protects the relationship between patients and their physicians, without interference by insurance companies or the government
- Protects patients' access to specialty physician services
- Provides affordable health insurance for all through a choice of plans and eliminates denials for pre-existing conditions
- Promotes quality, prevention and wellness initiatives
- Repeals the Medicare physician payment system that harms seniors' access to care
- Eases the crushing weight of medical liability and insurance company bureaucracy

We have serious concerns over any attempts to limit the ability of physicians to own an interest in the services they provide. Such a change in the law could have a significant impact in the **quality** of services that are provided outside of physicians control and direction (which is precisely the reason TSAOG developed these services in-house). We also have concerns with any expansion of the current Medicare program as a way of increasing access to care. While innovative at its inception, Medicare has its problems, and could have the unintended consequence of making it harder for individuals currently enrolled in private insurance to have a choice in the direction of their health care.

Healthcare reform is one of the most important issues currently facing our country. And while you are just one voice, you can make a difference. TSAOG encourages you to closely follow the issues, and to express your opinion with your US Senators and Congressional representatives. To get the address of your representatives, go to <http://www.usa.gov/Contact/Elected.shtml>.

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