

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **Health Reform in North Carolina: Are We Ready Yet?**

June 22, 2010 – Morrisville, N.C. – Today, the North Carolina Institute of Medicine released three resources designed to help North Carolinians—the public, health providers, and policymakers—understand and prepare for the various health reform provisions. These resources will help state and local officials, insurers, hospitals, and health care providers as they make important decisions as the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) of 2010—more commonly known as health reform—is implemented in North Carolina.

#### ***Resource 1: Current North Carolina Medical Journal Issue Focuses on Health Care Reform***

The most recent issue of the *North Carolina Medical Journal* explores some of the challenges and opportunities for North Carolina as we move forward with implementing health care reform. The editors of the *North Carolina Medical Journal* crafted this issue as a comprehensive overview of how health reform will affect individuals, providers, employers, the insurance industry, communities, and the state. Articles include perspectives from authors in various sectors including medicine, public health, law and government.

Pam Silberman, JD, DrPH, President and CEO of the North Carolina Institute of Medicine, provides a broad overview of the PPACA, what it means to the state, how individuals and organizations will be affected, and how it will begin to be implemented.

Through the use of health insurance exchanges, Medicaid expansion, tax incentives for employer-based insurance coverage, individual mandates, and subsidies for low-income individuals, the PPACA expands health insurance coverage to most North Carolinians. Through these various insurance programs the number of uninsured North Carolinians is projected to decrease by roughly 250,000 in 2011 and 700,000 in 2014 according to Mark Holmes, PhD, Assistant Professor in Health Policy and Management at the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health.

The issue also includes a discussion of provisions that are scheduled to take effect within the next year, including rebates for Medicare Part D recipients, the establishment of a high-risk pool for uninsured people with preexisting conditions and extended insurance coverage for younger individuals under their parents' health plan.

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### ***Resource 2: Presentations Available to Explain Health Reform and Its Impact on Various Individuals and Groups***

The NCIOM has created different slide show presentations to help state and local officials, policymakers, health care providers and individuals understand the many components of health reform and how they will affect various groups. These provide an overview of the key components of the national health reform legislation and then focus on aspects of the national legislation of particular concern for consumers, prevention and public health, safety net providers and the health professional workforce.

### ***Resource 3: Funding Opportunities Compiled***

One of the tools the NCIOM has developed is a spreadsheet that provides information on the various funding opportunities coming out of national health reform. This tool will help North Carolina take full advantage of new federal funding opportunities. The spreadsheet has many details about national health reform funds including the type of funding (e.g. prevention, improving quality), the federal authority in charge of distributing the funds, the years funding is available, whether the funds have been authorized or appropriated, and the type of entity eligible to receive funds.

The North Carolina Medical Journal issue, which includes an analysis of what health reform means for North Carolina, is available at <http://www.ncmedicaljournal.com>.

The presentations and funding spreadsheet and are available at <http://www.nciom.org/data/healthreform.php>

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### ***About the North Carolina Institute of Medicine***

The North Carolina Institute of Medicine (NCIOM) is a statewide organization that serves as a source of health policy advice and analysis. The North Carolina General Assembly chartered the NCIOM in 1983 to provide balanced, nonpartisan information on complex and often controversial health issues in our state. The NCIOM convenes experts, leaders and other stakeholders to develop workable solutions to these issues. More information about the NCIOM is available at <http://www.nciom.org>.

### ***About the North Carolina Medical Journal***

The *North Carolina Medical Journal* is published bimonthly by the North Carolina Institute of Medicine and The Duke Endowment. The *Journal* reaches more than 30,000 readers, making it the most widely distributed North Carolina-based health-focused journal in the state. Each installment of the *Journal* features a policy forum devoted to interchange and debate about a single, highly salient health issue. The *Journal* also publishes original peer-reviewed studies from North Carolina researchers. The purpose of the *Journal* is to be a standard reference for policymakers and health care leaders who are engaged in the difficult task of addressing the health challenges facing our state. <http://www.ncmedicaljournal.com>.