

PARTNERSHIP FOR SOLUTIONS
Better Lives for People with Chronic Conditions

What is Partnership for Solutions?

The Partnership, led by Johns Hopkins University and The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, is a new initiative to improve the care and quality of life for the more than 125 million Americans with chronic health conditions. The Partnership is engaged in three major activities: conducting original research and identifying existing research that clarifies the nature of the problem; communicating these research findings to policymakers, advocates and organizations that pay for or provide services to those with chronic conditions; and working to identify promising solutions to the problems faced by children and adults with chronic health conditions.

What are the goals of the Partnership?

The goal of Partnership for Solutions is to improve care and enhance the quality of life for people with chronic conditions. The Partnership is working to build support for improving how we care for people with chronic conditions and how we pay for that care. The Partnership is also identifying a range of private and public solutions ranging from volunteerism to improving private health insurance and public health coverage programs.

Who are the Partners in Partnership for Solutions?

Joining Johns Hopkins University and The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation in the effort are a consortium of partners representing a wide range of Americans with chronic illness and those who care for them including: Alzheimer's Association, American Academy of Pediatrics, American Diabetes Association, American Geriatrics Society, Family Voices, National Alliance for the Mentally Ill and the National Chronic Care Consortium.

What are the Partnership's specific activities?

The Partnership conducts research, builds awareness, and identifies proposed solutions.

Groundbreaking research

- To answer questions such as: How many people suffer from chronic conditions? How rapidly is the number growing? What are the negative consequences? What are the root causes?
- To describe and analyze the benefits packages of large corporations in relation to chronic health conditions and to study the impact of private sector insurance benefits on health care and productivity.
- To analyze the impact of current financial incentives on providers who care for people with chronic conditions.
- To analyze alternative mechanisms to pay for benefits and services for people with chronic conditions.

Raising Awareness and Communication

- To work with consumers, patients, business leaders, advocates and providers to inform our research and build a national constituency for improving the lives of people with chronic health conditions.
- To inform policymakers about the best private sector benefits packages, and how they might inform improvements in models for public programs.

Identifying specific, promising solutions

- To identify public and private sector health insurance benefit options that better meet the needs of people with chronic conditions.
- To identify community programs that allow people with chronic health conditions to live fuller lives in their communities, ranging from adult day care services to housing arrangements that combine care and support.
- To identify health care organizations providing the best care for those with chronic health conditions.

Which research projects are planned for the next six months?

The Partnership has several research projects underway, including a study on the cost and prevalence of chronic conditions, out-of-pocket expenditures associated with chronic conditions, physician and consumer surveys about perceptions and experiences in addressing chronic conditions, and a survey of the benefits packages of Fortune 100 companies. The Partnership will develop and disseminate the results of these studies to a wide array of Americans who are interested in improving care and support for people with chronic health conditions.

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www.partnershipforsolutions.org Media information line: (800) 484-5276 x8400