

## Comparison of Barack Obama's and John McCain's health care reform plans

ITEM	OBAMA	McCAIN
<b>Overview of Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Universal coverage goal through private and public insurance</li> <li>▪ Employer mandate</li> <li>▪ Public plan for noncovered Americans (e.g., not for eligible Medicaid/SCHIP)</li> <li>▪ National Health Insurance Exchange (a Maxi-Connector)</li> <li>▪ Cost containment, quality improvement and public health initiatives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Universal access (not coverage) through cost containment and tax changes</li> <li>▪ No mandates</li> <li>▪ Focus on quality of care improvements, tax credits to purchase coverage, and insurance deregulation</li> <li>▪ Cost containment, quality improvement and public health initiatives</li> </ul>
<b>Insurance Reforms</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Major increase in regulation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Decrease in regulation</li> </ul>
<b>Role of Government</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Expand Medicaid and SCHIP</li> <li>▪ National public plan run by government</li> <li>▪ Allow state reforms</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ No expansion of Medicaid or SCHIP</li> <li>▪ Give states more flexibility in Medicaid</li> <li>▪ Expand VA benefits</li> <li>▪ No "public" plan</li> </ul>
<b>Quality Improvements</b>	Both candidates have positive components to improve quality to include: HIT, comparative effectiveness, e-prescribing, racial/ethnic disparities, P4P, transparency in cost/quality, wellness, prevention, care coordination, lifestyle choices, telemedicine, prohibition on Medicare payments for preventable medical errors, evidence-based medicine	
<b>Pharmacy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Pro-generics</li> <li>▪ Supports importation, negotiation of Part D</li> <li>▪ Likely supporter of e-prescribing and biogenerics</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Pro-generics</li> <li>▪ Pro-biogenerics</li> <li>▪ Supports importation (and probably) negotiation of Part D</li> </ul>
<b>Tort Reform</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Modest</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Major proposal to reduce damage awards and lawsuits</li> </ul>
<b>Mandates</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Individual mandate for children only</li> <li>▪ Employer mandate (Play or Pay)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ No coverage mandates</li> <li>▪ Purchasing pools</li> </ul>
<b>Tax Changes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Federal subsidy (reinsurance) to employers for catastrophic costs</li> <li>▪ Income-based tax subsidies to purchase coverage</li> <li>▪ Limited subsidy for small employers</li> <li>▪ No other major tax changes (e.g., no tax exclusion change)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ No such subsidy for catastrophic costs</li> <li>▪ Refundable tax credit (\$2,500/ \$5,000) for low-income (et al.?) to pay for coverage</li> <li>▪ Eliminate employee tax exclusion</li> <li>▪ Additional tax incentives (e.g., use excess credit for HSAs)</li> </ul>
<b>Cost</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ \$50-\$65 billion/year</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Unclear</li> </ul>