



Center for Health Transformation E-Newsletters

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In the first seven months the [Center for Health Transformation](#) has:

- Published [Saving Lives and Saving Money](#) (which contained many of the ideas that were incorporated in the Medicare Bill --see Below)
- Created a website on [health transformation](#) that has received almost one million hits
- Almost 2000 people have downloaded PowerPoints on health transformation
- 27 [Members](#) have joined the Center
- 9 state Governors signed up for the [State Transformation Project](#)
- 27 [Transforming Examples](#) listed on our website
- 5 State workshops (Georgia, Florida, South Carolina and Idaho on site, Montana by videoconference)
- The Center co-sponsored events such as:
 - Transforming Health and Healthcare Conference in Georgia
 - Workshop for Hill Health Staff
 - The Emerging Technologies in Healthcare Conference
 - The Consumer Directed Healthcare Congress
 - The Healthcare Delivery Solutions Congress
- Participated in the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce workshop on health
- Worked with the Bush administration, key leaders in the House and Senate, AARP and key experts to develop and help pass a transformational Medicare Bill. Highlights that were in *Saving Lives and Saving Money* that were included in the bill include:
 - Health Savings Accounts (effective January 1,2004) - see [Chapter 5](#) of *Saving Lives & Saving Money*
 - E-prescription incentives
 - Disease management
 - Screening for diabetes
 - Coverage of injection devices for insulin
 - Co-morbidity management for the 5% of Medicare recipients who cost 50% of the budget
 - Incentives for hospitals to report quality data and invest in information technology

- Testified before Congress twice regarding health transformation related to long-term living and to Medicare.
- Brought visibility to the issue of health transformation through [news coverage](#) of our activities in dozens of publications, including (to name just a few) major stories by the Wall Street Journal, Reuters national, AP national, UPI national, Time magazine, the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Health Leaders Magazine, Health and Medicine Week, Financial News, The Hill, Roll Call, US News and World Report, LA Times, Hartford Courant, the Tennessean, Salt Lake Tribune, Idaho Falls News, the Idaho Statesman, and [Modern Healthcare, where Newt was named the 19th most powerful figure in health and healthcare.](#)
- Spread the message of health transformation through television and radio, including numerous appearances by Newt or members of our team on FOX News, CNN, NBC, NPR, MSNBC, as well as coverage by dozens of regional or state-wide radio and TV stations and live C-Span coverage of several health transformation events.

REMARKABLE MONTH FOR HEALTH TRANSFORMATION

The last month has seen a remarkable improvement in the opportunity for health transformation.

The new Medicare bill changes the basic tax provision for health insurance more decisively than anything done since the 1943 decision to allow employers to offer third party payment health insurance as a way of getting around war time wage and price controls.

CHT
Founder
Newt
Gingrich

The new Health Savings Accounts (effective January 1, 2004) create a dramatic new incentive to help people return to personal responsibility and personal choice. This creates opportunity to save up to \$2600 per individual or \$5150 per family with tax free money AND tax free build up of interest or investment AND tax free spending on health, prevention, wellness, long term care and long term care insurance in an account that belongs to you personally, that you can take with you if you change jobs, and that is part of your estate for your family if you pass away. A lot of people are going to love putting their tax money into an account that allows them to earn interest on tax money the government would otherwise have taken.

THIS CHANGE WILL PROVE TO BE AN ENORMOUS STEP TOWARD A PERSONAL HEALTH SYSTEM WITH PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY, PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE AND PERSONAL POWER TO SPEND MONEY DIRECTLY ON YOUR OWN HEALTH.

There are a lot of other changes in the Medicare bill and you can learn about them on the [Medicare Transformation Project](#) page on our web site, but this provision is so important I wanted to focus my report on driving home this opportunity.

Every business in America (including governments as employers) should start offering a

health savings account option as quickly as possible.

The Center for Health Transformation would like to welcome our newest members of the Center: [Novo Nordisk](#) (Charter) and [QMedtrix](#) (Premier). Visit the [list of members page](#) often to keep abreast of who is joining the Center.

On the stump...

Championing transformation to option leaders, decision makers and in the media is a principle mission of the Center for Health Transformation. In the last month, the Center has been able to place various op-eds in both national and trade publications, speak to a wide array of audiences, and give numerous interviews which have led to a flurry of press coverage. Here are some highlights:

"...Newt... is playing a surprising significant role in congressional discussions to revamp the system... Gingrich is winning over initial skeptics and some of his [the Center's] proposals will be included in the final draft." (The Hill 11/3/03) "'This bill moves you toward choice... If you don't transform the health care system, you will never balance the budget.'" (11/20 Atlanta Journal-Constitution) "If you are a fiscal conservative who cares about balancing the federal budget, there may be no more important vote in your career than one in support of the bill. (11/24 Wall Street Journal op-ed) "House Republican leaders, trying to shore up support among restless conservatives, bought back Newt Gingrich.. to argue for the bill in a closed-door caucus on Wednesday." (New York Times, 11/20) "... AARP advisor Gingrich tried to win the support of conservative House members by drawing lawmakers' attention to a tax-free savings measure buried in the bill." (Los Angeles Times, 11/20) "Gingrich argues that personal responsibility for our health and its attendant costs is the key to cutting medical spending." (Marketplace, Public Radio International, 12/1) "The bill is the most important reform of Medicare since 1965. It brings a very badly-needed drug benefit to seniors and begins to make the system work again...And it is a little crazy for the federal government to say we'll spend billions of dollars on kidney dialysis, but not a penny to keep you healthy before you need dialysis. (FOX News Channel, 11/18)

Visit the [CHT in the News](#) section on the Center for Health Transformation's web site to read more!

Exclusive Monthly Member Teleconference - December 15th

The next monthly member teleconference will be held on Monday, December 15th at 2:30 p.m. Eastern. Access to this call is restricted to Charter and Premier Members. If you would like more information about how to become a Charter or Premier Member of the Center, please contact us at **(202) 414-1800** or info@healthtransformation.net.

December 8– Washington, DC. Newt Gingrich and Charter members of the Center for Health Transformation attend signing of the Medicare Bill

December 9 – Washington, DC. Newt Gingrich to present at the Institute For International Research's Medicare Financing Congress

December 9 - Washington, DC. Newt Gingrich to participate on Television Forum On A Lifetime Of Health And Dignity: Confronting Long Term Care Challenges In America

December 12 - Washington, DC. AEI Conference on Medicare Health Savings Accounts

January 15, 2004 - Washington, DC. Center for Health Transformation Monthly Member Teleconference

January 16, 2004 - Washington, DC. Newt Gingrich to speak to the Georgia House Republican Caucus

January 26, 2004 - Washington, DC. Newt Gingrich to speak at the World Healthcare Congress sponsored by the *Wall Street Journal*

January 27, 2004 - Washington, DC. State Team Transformation Workshop

January 27, 2004 - Washington, DC. Center for Health Transformation Quarterly Member Meeting

For more information on these events or to view other CHT events, please visit <http://www.healthtransformation.net/events>.

The Center for Health Transformation, founded by Speaker Newt Gingrich is dedicated to saving lives and saving money through driving transformational solutions and policies throughout the system. These e-mails from Newt are updates about the Center for Health Transformation, providing an insider's view of key events and opportunities for transformation. Some of you have already signed up for membership in the Center. Others are being sent this email as an invitation to

membership.

If you would like to become a corporate/association member of the Center for Health Transformation or are interested in financially sponsoring a specific project, please contact us: (202) 414-1800 or info@healthtransformation.net. Please also visit our website at <http://www.healthtransformation.net/>.

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