

Major Provisions of the Affordable Care Act

	Improvements in Coverage	Improvements in Quality/Efficiency
2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving access to insurance and prohibiting denial and removal of coverage for pre-existing conditions • Eliminating lifetime limits, regulating annual limits on insurance coverage and holding insurance companies accountable for unreasonable rate hikes • Appealing insurance company decisions • Establishing consumer assistance programs in the states • Making changes in Medicare, including offering relief for seniors in the Medicare prescription drug “donut hole” and expanding coverage for early retirees • Cracking down on health care fraud • Extending coverage for young adults • Allowing states to cover more people on Medicaid 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Putting information for consumers online • Providing small business health insurance tax credits • Making improvements in preventive care • Rebuilding the primary care workforce • Increasing payments for rural health care providers • Strengthening community health centers
2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offering prescription drug discounts • Bringing down health care premiums • Addressing overpayments to big insurance companies and strengthening Medicare advantage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving health care quality and efficiency and bringing down costs • Improving preventive and continuing care for seniors • Increasing access to services at home and in the community
2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing new, voluntary options for long-term care insurance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linking payment to quality outcomes (value-based purchasing) • Encouraging integrated health systems (ACOs, collaborative care) • Reducing paperwork and administrative costs (EHRs) • Understanding and fighting health disparities
2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open enrollment begins 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving preventive health coverage • Expanding authority to bundle payments • Increasing Medicaid payments for primary care doctors
2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eliminating annual limits on insurance coverage • Ensuring coverage for individuals participating in clinical trials • Making care more affordable through individual and small business tax credits • Establishing the Health Insurance Marketplace • Increasing access to Medicaid 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prohibiting discrimination due to pre-existing conditions or gender • Promoting individual responsibility
2015		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paying physicians based on value not volume

This table was compiled with information from www.hhs.gov/healthcare/facts/timeline/timeline-text.html

Source: *TCPR*, January 2014, Ethics in Psychiatry