



## Heart Disease and Stroke Patients Are Benefitting From Health Reform

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) was signed into law on March 23, 2010. In the past three years, a number of provisions have taken effect that are benefitting heart disease and stroke patients. Work continues to implement the remainder of the law.

- 86 million Americans, including 34 million Medicare beneficiaries and 54 million Americans with private health insurance, have received at least one free preventive screening or service as a result of the ACA provision that requires coverage of evidence-based preventive care with no cost-sharing. Of the 34 million Medicare beneficiaries who benefitted:
  - ✓ 25 million were screened for high cholesterol;
  - ✓ 4.4 million received an annual wellness visit; and
  - ✓ More than 123,000 received tobacco cessation counseling.
- More than 130,000 Americans with pre-existing medical conditions who were previously uninsured for at least six months have gained comprehensive insurance coverage through the Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plans (PCIP). One study estimates that about 15 percent of PCIP enrollees have heart disease, stroke, or some other form of cardiovascular disease.
- Approximately 6.1 million Medicare beneficiaries whose prescription drug costs reached the Part D coverage gap – commonly known as the “donut hole” – saved \$5.7 billion on their prescription drugs, thanks to the ACA’s provisions to close the donut hole over time. More specifically, in 2012 alone, Medicare beneficiaries at risk for heart disease and stroke saved:
  - ✓ \$436 million on blood sugar lowering drugs for treating diabetes;
  - ✓ \$240 million on cholesterol lowering drugs; and
  - ✓ \$138 million on blood pressure lowering drugs.
- 105 million Americans have had their lifetime limits on their insurance coverage eliminated. In addition, children under age 19 with pre-existing conditions like congenital heart disease can no longer be denied coverage by insurance companies.
- More than 3 million young adults who would have otherwise been uninsured have been able to gain insurance coverage by staying on their parents’ plan.
- The Million Hearts initiative was launched, an unprecedented partnership between public and private partners, including the American Heart Association, to prevent one million heart attacks and strokes over the next five years. This initiative was made possible in large part thanks to new tools and resources made available by the ACA.
- States and communities have already received \$1.2 billion from the Prevention and Public Health Trust Fund to make changes to help people live healthier lives. Grantees will focus on three priority areas that will help to reduce heart disease, stroke and other chronic illnesses: tobacco-free living; physical activity and healthy eating; and prevention and control of high blood pressure and high cholesterol.



**American Heart Association** | **American Stroke Association**

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