

Quality, Safety, Access and Value Principles

Access

Access to health care services is essential to achieving quality outcomes. The DHHS recognizes the need to ensure adequate access to health care in as equitable a manner as possible. Barriers to access include: geography, income and insurance coverage, and sociocultural factors. Individuals whose access to health care services is adversely affected by any of the aforementioned barriers are medically underserved.

The DHHS strives to remove geographic barriers to access by planning for health services on a geographic basis with a goal for all feasible services to be available in local communities. Other barriers are addressed by requiring providers to offer care for all patients in need of service without regard for insurance coverage, and by encouraging providers to reduce the disparities in access for racial and ethnic groups.

Value

With health care costs continuing to escalate, North Carolina is committed to promoting value driven approaches to the provision of health care services. The determination of value in health care is a combination of the cost and quality of the care provided. Citizens should expect that health care delivered in North Carolina will be provided in the most cost-effective method while still achieving high quality. When considering these methods in planning for future healthcare services and equipment, the value determination will need to be addressed from a population-based perspective.

The DHHS encourages the development of value-driven health care by promoting collaborative efforts among health providers and innovative approaches to provide care and minimize excess capacity of existing facilities.