

Agenda: Health Care Affordability Advisory Task Force

Date: February 25, 2026, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**Wilder Foundation – 451 Lexington Pkwy N, St. Paul, MN 55104
Amherst H. Wilder Auditorium (Auditorium A)**

Teams Link: [Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting Objectives

- Review past task force meeting material, progress to date, and pathway to recommendations
- Briefly recap, and create space for reactions to, the Provider and Payer Advisory Task Force meeting
- Begin to dive into priority topics the task force has identified:
 - Non-value added spending
 - High and variable prices
- Within these topic areas, brainstorm and refine ideas for future discussion

Pre-reads

- [A Road Map for Action: Recommendations Of The Health Affairs Council On Health Care Spending and Value \(PDF\) \(https://www.healthaffairs.org/pb-assets/documents/CHS_Report/CHS_ExecSummary_2022_R5-1675432669.pdf\)](https://www.healthaffairs.org/pb-assets/documents/CHS_Report/CHS_ExecSummary_2022_R5-1675432669.pdf)
- [The Opaque Industry Secretly Inflating Prices for Prescription Drugs \(https://www.nytimes.com/2024/06/21/business/prescription-drug-costs-pbm.html\)](https://www.nytimes.com/2024/06/21/business/prescription-drug-costs-pbm.html)
- [Reducing Administrative Costs in U.S. Health Care \(PDF\) \(https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Cutler_PP_LO.pdf\)](https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Cutler_PP_LO.pdf)
- [Congress Reins In Drug Middlemen in Effort to Lower Prescription Prices \(https://www.nytimes.com/2026/02/04/health/prescription-drug-prices-pharmacy-benefit-managers-congress.html\)](https://www.nytimes.com/2026/02/04/health/prescription-drug-prices-pharmacy-benefit-managers-congress.html)
- [It's The Prices, Stupid: Why The United States Is So Different From Other Countries \(https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/10.1377/hlthaff.22.3.89\) \(shared in December\)](https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/10.1377/hlthaff.22.3.89)
- [It's Still the Prices, Stupid: Why The US Spends So Much On Health Care, And A Tribute To Uwe Reinhardt \(https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/10.1377/hlthaff.2018.05144?url_ver=Z39.88-2003&rfr_id=ori:rid:crossref.org&rfr_dat=cr_pub%20pubmed\) \(shared in December\)](https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/10.1377/hlthaff.2018.05144?url_ver=Z39.88-2003&rfr_id=ori:rid:crossref.org&rfr_dat=cr_pub%20pubmed)

Agenda

- 9:00 – 9:20 Where we're going and how we'll get there
- 9:20 – 9:40 Recap and reactions: Provider and Payer Advisory Task Force Meeting
- 9:40 – 10:20 "Non-value-added" spending
- 10:20 – 10:45 High and variable prices
- 10:45 – 11:00 Brainstorming exercise
- 11:00 – 11:10 Break
- 11:10 – 11:55 Prioritizing ideas and the path forward
- 11:55 – 12:00 Closing and next steps

ABOUT THE CENTER FOR HEALTH CARE AFFORDABILITY

The Minnesota Center for Health Care Affordability at the Minnesota Department of Health is committed to making health care more affordable for all Minnesotans.

The Center identifies cost drivers, provides transparent research, and advances solutions that stabilize health care spending so that Minnesotans can afford the high-quality care they need.

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