

Blog Watch

« Turkey Day Blog Buffet

Where's The Turkey?

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The holiday is over and bloggers are bouncing back with health system critiques and ideas to improve it.

[Cato's](#) Tad DeHaven looks at Medicare and Medicaid waste outlined in a GAO report and concludes, "Alas, the Obama administration plans to open [another major tributary](#) with its new health care plan. But the administration insists that taxpayers and the economy won't get swept away by the rising torrent as its plan with actually *save* money. If this claim sounds ridiculous, it's because *it is ridiculous*."

[Health Populi's](#) Jane Sarasohn-Kahn discusses a Business Roundtable proposal to restructure the health care market through delivery reforms like pay for performance and wellness incentives.

Uwe Reinhardt on the New York Times' [Economix](#) looks at comments by Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas, that all women should be able to get yearly mammograms. Reinhardt says the senator's comments illustrate how the United States health care system rations: "But chances are that in a state in which 25 percent of the population is without health insurance, a good many of these Texans are likely to have been forced to choose between spending their own money on these tests or prenatal care and other necessities of life. To paraphrase Senator Hutchison, they were being rationed out of health care."

[Mark Trahan](#) thinks it's the political system that needs overhaul — he focuses on the senate, saying, "The requirement of fixing health care must be seen in the context of a political system where it's easier to spend than to save, and easier to borrow than to tax. The current scare over health care rationing makes this point exactly: No one has to give up anything. We can afford the very best, most expensive treatments even when they don't work."

The Washington Post's [Ezra Klein](#) posts an analysis from Jonathan Gruber — the MIT economist who keeps popping up during the health reform debate. Gruber estimates that without reform, premiums on the individual market will cost 23% more.

Meanwhile, [The New Republic's](#) Jonathan Cohn, who prefers the House bill, finds more flaws in the Senate version: loopholes would possibly exempt many businesses from lifetime benefit caps.

But [Critical Condition's](#) Jeffrey Anderson thinks a round of recent polls spells trouble for reform efforts, and says "It is time to kill this expensive, intrusive, unpopular monster — once and for all."

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