

Health IT Provision Added to Democratic Health Platform

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The Democratic Party has added a provision calling for widespread health IT adoption to its official health care platform, Modern Healthcare reports.

The Democratic National Platform committee for the national convention next week in Denver said that widespread health IT adoption would save the average family up to \$2,500 annually by increasing efficiency and reducing duplication of medical services.

“As Americans struggle with increasing health care costs, we believe a strengthened, uniquely American system should provide the highest-quality, most cost-effective care,” the committee wrote, adding, “These efforts include driving adoption of state-of-the-art health information technology systems, privacy-protected electronic medical records, reimbursement incentives” and a comparative-effectiveness institute.

Both presumptive Democratic presidential nominee Sen. Barack Obama (Ill.) and Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-N.Y.), whose name will be placed in nomination at the convention, support health IT adoption.

The Democratic National Platform committee’s health reform plan also calls for:

- Universal health care coverage by expanding private and public health insurance options;
- Increased focus on prevention and wellness; and
- Health insurance industry reforms that would eliminate insurance discrimination (DoBias, Modern Healthcare, 8/18).