Is Single Payer Right for America?

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Overview

• Theory is nice, but…

• Technically, it could work

• But politically??

• A better alternative for the US Now
Theory is nice, but…

- The interests of patients, providers, and citizen taxpayers have to be aligned

- This is hard to achieve
  - Provider payment issues
  - Information asymmetries
  - Innovation incentives
Technically, it could work

• Medicare *could* absorb everyone

• Medicare quality and cost performance is not stellar

• Colorado single payer plan is better, more comprehensive and aware of FFS incentive problems
But Politically?

• Do the people trust Elites enough?
  – Fairly easy to demagogue “one size fits all”

• Congress has difficulty delegating enough
  – Providers are constituents too

• Cost performance is fairly mixed
Cost Performance

Excess Cost Growth in Medicare, Medicaid, and All Other Spending on Health Care

A Better Alternative

• Cover *ALL* in a sustainable system
• Sustainable = Bipartisan
• Bi-Partisan = private markets must play a major role
• Sustainable = more efficient delivery system
  – Information infrastructure
  – Smarter incentives
  – Comparative effectiveness information
• Sustainable = nurture political will to cover all and enhance value per dollar *simultaneously*