



National Institute for Health Care Management (NIHCM)  
Foundation Webinar

## Medicare and the Federal Deficit

### AGENDA

July 19, 2011

3:00 - 4:30 p.m. EDT \*\*

**3:00 p.m. Call to Order and Welcome**

*Julie A. Schoenman, Ph.D., Director of Research & Development, NIHCM Foundation*

**3:05 p.m. The Financial Status of Medicare and its Impact on the Federal Deficit**

*Joshua B. Gordon, Ph.D., Policy Director, The Concord Coalition*

- Fast-growing health care costs, the unfunded prescription drug benefit, and retirement of the baby boomers leave an increasing share of Medicare outlays to be covered through general revenues, making the program a major and growing contributor to the federal deficit.

**3:25 p.m. Lifetime Benefits and Contributions: A Holistic Perspective on Medicare Finances and Reforms**

*C. Eugene Steuerle, Ph.D., Institute Fellow and Richard B. Fisher Chair, The Urban Institute*

- The average retiree today can expect to receive three times more in Medicare benefits than he paid in Medicare taxes.
- Effectively addressing this imbalance implies a need to think broadly about reforms.

**3:45 p.m. What Actions will Policymakers Take? A Review of Current Proposals to Reform Medicare**

*Marc Goldwein, M.A., Policy Director, The Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget*

- Political realities and considerable polarization over the desired direction and scope of program changes make it extremely difficult to address Medicare's fiscal challenges in a meaningful way, especially before the 2012 elections.
- While some changes to Medicare may be part of a debt ceiling agreement, more sweeping structural reforms, such as premium support and an increase in the eligibility age, will continue to be debated even after the debt ceiling crisis has passed.

**4:05 p.m. Questions and Answers**

**4:30 p.m. Wrap-Up and Adjourn**

\*\* 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. CDT ● 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. MDT ● 12:00 - 1:30 p.m. PDT