



The Problem:

Preventable and Mismanaged Chronic Disease

Chronic diseases, such as asthma, cancer, diabetes, and heart disease, are the leading causes of death and disability around the globe and account for the vast majority of health care spending. They affect the quality of life for billions of patients and are responsible for almost 63 percent of all global deaths (and 80 percent of low and middle income countries) – killing more than 35 million every year.

Chronic diseases are also the primary driver of health care costs – accounting for more than 75 cents of every dollar we spend on health care.

Despite these widespread problems, the issue of chronic disease does not register with large segments of the public and policymakers as an issue of primary concern.

The Solution:

An International Partnership Aimed at Fighting Disease

Government cannot effectively address escalating health care costs without addressing the problem of chronic diseases

That's why a broad group of patient, provider, community, business and labor groups, and health policy experts, has joined together to form the Partnership to Fight Chronic Disease (PFCD) – an international organization committed to raising awareness of the number one cause of death, disability, and rising health care costs in the world: rising rates of preventable and treatable chronic diseases.

Mission

The PFCD believes that rising rates of chronic health problems pose a significant and unsustainable burden on health care systems, and that the viability and strength of those systems—presently and in the future—relies on a willingness to enact policies that help patients better prevent and manage chronic illnesses.

As a result, the mission of the PFCD is to:

EDUCATE government and other opinion leaders about chronic disease and potential solutions for individuals and communities

MOBILIZE citizens to call for change in how governments, employers, and health institutions approach chronic disease

CHALLENGE policymakers on the health policy changes that are necessary to effectively fight chronic disease



Advisory Board

The PFCD Advisory Board is comprised of high-profile leaders from the public and private sector and is led by Dr. Ken Thorpe, PFCD Chairman and Professor and Chair at the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University.

Partners

The PFCD is an international national organization of hundreds of patient, provider, community, business and labor groups, and health policy experts, committed to raising awareness of policies and practices that save lives and reduce health costs through more effective prevention and management of chronic disease. Hundreds of leading organizations from around the globe have joined the organization since its launch in May 2007.

For more information on the PFCD, visit www.fightchronicdisease.org.

Policy Agenda

PFCD offers a united voice that injects patient-focused policies and practices into the international dialogue on important health care issues and works to:

Advance sustainable, Next Generation chronic disease prevention, early intervention, and management models throughout the health care system and public health infrastructure

Promote healthy lifestyles and disease prevention and management in every community

Encourage and reward continuous advances in clinical practice and research that improve the quality of care for those with prevalent and costly chronic diseases

Accelerate improvements in the quality and availability of health information technology (HIT) throughout the health care system

Reduce health disparities by focusing on barriers to good health

The full PFCD policy platform, which was developed as a consensus-based agenda with the input of PFCD partners, is available at www.fightchronicdisease.org/advocate.