

1900s	1910s	1920s	1930s	1940s	1950s
<p>American Medical Association (AMA) becomes a powerful national force.</p> <p>In 1901, AMA reorganizes as the national organization of state and local associations. Membership increases from about 8,000 physicians in 1900 to 70,000 in 1910 -- half the physicians in the country. This period is the beginning of "organized medicine."</p> <p>Surgery is now common, especially for removing tumors, infected tonsils, appendectomies, and gynecological operations.</p> <p>Doctors are no longer expected to provide free services to all hospital patients.</p> <p>America lags behind European countries in finding value in insuring against the costs of sickness.</p> <p>Railroads are the leading industry to develop extensive employee medical programs.</p>	<p>American hospitals are now modern scientific institutions, valuing antiseptics and cleanliness, and using medications for the relief of pain.</p> <p>American Association for Labor Legislation (AALL) organizes first national conference on "social insurance".</p> <p>Progressive reformers argue for health insurance, seems to be gaining support.</p> <p>Opposition from physicians and other interest groups, and the entry of the US into the war in 1917 undermine reform effort.</p>	<p>Consistent with the general mood of political complacency, there is no strong effort to change health insurance.</p> <p>Reformers now emphasize the cost of medical care instead of wages lost to sickness - the relatively higher cost of medical care is a new and dramatic development, especially for the middle class.</p> <p>Growing cultural influence of the medical profession - physicians' incomes are higher and prestige is established.</p> <p>Rural health facilities are clearly inadequate.</p> <p>General Motors signs a contract with Metropolitan Life to insure 180,000 workers.</p> <p>Penicillin is discovered, but it will be twenty years before it is used to combat infection and disease.</p>	<p>The Depression changes priorities, with greater emphasis on unemployment insurance and "old age" benefits.</p> <p>Social Security Act is passed, omitting health insurance.</p> <p>Push for health insurance within the Roosevelt Administration, but politics begins to be influenced by internal government conflicts over priorities.</p> <p>Against the advice of insurance professionals, Blue Cross begins offering private coverage for hospital care in dozens of states.</p>	<p>Penicillin comes into use.</p> <p>Prepaid group healthcare begins, seen as radical.</p> <p>During the 2nd World War, wage and price controls are placed on American employers. To compete for workers, companies begin to offer health benefits, giving rise to the employer-based system in place today.</p> <p>President Roosevelt asks Congress for "economic bill of rights," including right to adequate medical care.</p> <p>President Truman offers national health program plan, proposing a single system that would include all of American society.</p> <p>Truman's plan is denounced by the American Medical Association (AMA), and is called a Communist plot by a House subcommittee.</p>	<p>At the start of the decade, national health care expenditures are 4.5 percent of the Gross National Product.</p> <p>Attention turns to Korea and away from health reform; America will have a system of private insurance for those who can afford it and welfare state for the poor.</p> <p>Federal responsibility for the poor is firmly established.</p> <p>Many legislative proposals made for different approaches to hospital insurance, but none succeed.</p> <p>Many more medications are available now to treat a range of diseases, including infectious diseases, including glaucoma, and arthritis, and vaccines become available to prevent dreaded childhood diseases, including polio. The first successful organ transplant is performed..</p>

