

Trump “Dream Team”: Tom Price to lead HHS, Seema Verma to lead CMS



President-elect Donald Trump has announced that Georgia Republican Rep. Tom Price will take over the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under when he takes office next January.

Price is known for being against the [Affordable Care Act \(ACA\)](#) and has already proposed plans to repeal and replace the legislation implemented under President Obama.

"Chairman Price, a renowned physician, has earned a reputation for being a tireless problem solver and the go-to expert on healthcare policy, making him the ideal choice to serve in this capacity," Trump said in a statement. "He is exceptionally qualified to shepherd our commitment to repeal and replace Obamacare and bring affordable and accessible healthcare to every American."

The president-elect also named Indiana healthcare consultant Seema Verma to head the Centres for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CNMA). Verma is the CEO of a consultancy firm dealing with healthcare and assisted in the creation of the Healthy Indiana Plan 2.0 as an alternative to ACA Medicaid expansion.

Describing [Verma and Price as "dream team"](#), Trump spoke of the former's experience in Medicare and Medicaid policy.

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Price is expected to expand tax credits to help Americans offset health insurance costs and to create an interstate health insurance market.

HIT should benefit under Price's leadership as the former orthopaedic surgeon is focused on this area – particularly legislation connected to electronic health records meaningful use reporting.

As chief of the CMS, Verma will decide on the future of healthcare programmes value-based innovation models, the [meaningful use](#) programme and MACRA.

Meanwhile, stakeholders have been responding to the appointment of Price. The American Hospital Association has said: "As healthcare continues to evolve and as care becomes more patient centered, Dr. Price's experience both as a surgeon, along with practicing at Emory University and Grady Memorial Hospital, makes him uniquely qualified to lead the Department of Health and Human Services."

HIMSS has also shown support. "During our many engagements with Chairman Price at HIMSS conferences and meetings, and as a congressional supporter of the HIMSS Foundation's Institute for e-Health Policy education sessions on health IT solutions, we have found Chairman Price to be an advocate and an ally to those transforming healthcare," the organisation said.

Source: [Healthcare FinanceNews](#)

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