

San Francisco OKs Universal Health Plan



LISA LEFF

Associated Press Writer

San Francisco moved closer Tuesday to becoming the nation's first city to provide health care coverage for all its residents.

The city's Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a plan that would give adults access to medical services regardless of immigration or employment status. The plan's estimated cost is \$200 million a year.

Financed by local government, mandatory contributions from employers and income-adjusted premiums, the universal care plan would cover the cost of everything from checkups, prescription drugs and X-rays to ambulance rides, blood tests and operations.

Unlike health insurance, it would not pay for services obtained outside San Francisco. Participants would have to receive care at existing clinics and public hospitals and from doctors who already participate in an HMO for low- and middle-income clients.

The Board of Supervisors must vote on the plan, which has been strongly opposed by the business community, once more for it to become final.

Businesses with more than 50 employees would have to start participating next July, while smaller enterprises would begin in April 2008.



Copyright 2005 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

News stories provided by third parties are not edited by "Site Publication" staff. For suggestions and comments, please click the Contact link at the bottom of this page.

- RSS Feeds for EMSResponder.com: Clinical Care Section

Printable version may be for personal use only. Content may not be duplicated, re-used or otherwise replicated without expressed, written consent from **EMSResponder.com** and/or the original author/source.

Visit **EMSResponder.com** at <http://www.emsresponder.com> for the latest industry news, commentary, features and more.

Copyright © 2007 All rights reserved.
Cygnus Interactive, a Division of Cygnus Business Media.