U.S. Surgeon General Says Healthcare.gov Making Progress

Daniel Lovering

The acting U.S. surgeon general said on Tuesday he was "enthusiastic" about the recent improvements to the troubled HealthCare.gov website, which was designed to allow users to shop for health insurance [1] required under new reforms.

Rear Admiral Boris Lushniak, who has been acting as the surgeon general since July, said President Barack Obama's [2] administration had acknowledged there was "still a way to go" to fix the site, "but in fact progress is being made."

"When I looked at some of the numbers recently - a million, for example, hits or a million people at least connecting up with the site, I get a sense of enthusiasm that we're headed obviously in the right direction," he told Reuters ahead of a health care innovation [3] conference at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Earlier on Tuesday, White House Chief of Staff Denis McDonough said more than 1 million visitors had checked out the website on Monday, the first day after a major overhaul.

The site was launched on Oct. 1 as a gateway for consumers in 36 states to buy health insurance [1] plans easily under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, commonly called Obamacare, which was passed in 2010. Other states run their own marketplaces.

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