This Week in Health Policy…
• HHS Nomination
• Early Coverage for Young Adults
• HHS Request for Comments
• NMA Statement on EHR Incentives
This week, the White House announced that President Obama has nominated Dr. Donald Berwick, President and CEO of the Institute for Healthcare Improvement, to be the next Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). Dr. Berwick is one of the nation’s leading experts on health care quality and improvement.

The nomination is subject to confirmation by the U.S. Senate. If confirmed as the head of CMS, Dr. Berwick would be charged with overseeing the agency at a time when the passage of health reform means major changes for the Medicare and Medicaid programs.
Six of the leading insurance companies announced this week that young adults under 26 could remain under their parents’ health insurance policies until September 23. Under the new health reform law, the provision that would extend dependent coverage for adult children would not take effect until September 23, 2010. Consequently many young adults graduating from college would lose their coverage over the summer until the provision in the health reform law took effect in the fall.

The following insurance companies will eliminate the coverage gap for young adults:

- United Healthcare
- WellPoint
- Aetna
- Humana
- Blue Cross Blue Shield
- Kaiser Permanente

By eliminating the coverage gap health insurance companies avoid the administrative costs of dis-enrolling young adults in May and then re-enrolling them in September. Furthermore the measure prevents a needless disruption in health insurance coverage.
HHS Request for Comments

Comments Due 05/14/10 at 11:59 PM EST

The Federal Government is inviting public comment to aid in the development of regulations regarding medical loss ratio requirements and premium reviews in the recently passed health reform legislation. Electronic comments may be submitted to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) before May 14th at [http://www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov).

- **Click here** to comment on Medical Loss Ratio.

  Medical Loss Ratio is the percentage of premium dollars that health insurance companies spend on medical care, as opposed to administrative costs or amounts retained for profit. [Click here](http://www.regulations.gov) for supplemental information on the health reform provisions addressing medical loss ratio.

- **Click here** to comment on Premium Review Process.

  Premium Review Process is the annual review of unreasonable increases in premiums for health insurance coverage. [Click here](http://www.regulations.gov) for supplemental information on the health reform provision addressing the premium review process.
As part of the HITECH Act in 2009, CMS administers the Electronic Health Record (EHR) incentive programs under Medicare and Medicaid. CMS prepared a proposed rule on the EHR incentive programs for public comment. This proposed rule includes the definition of meaningful use and other requirements for qualifying for incentive payments.

The National Medical Association has submitted recommendations and comments to CMS on the Electronic Health Record Incentives Program.

[Click here](#) to read the full NMA Statement.
What You Can Do

- Continue to call your Senator and urge them to repeal the SGR formula. [Click here](#) for contact information for your Senator.
- Submit your comments on regulations for medical loss ratio requirements and premium reviews to HHS at [http://www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov).
- Submit your insights, concerns, questions, or comments to [healthpolicy@nmanet.org](mailto:healthpolicy@nmanet.org).

For the latest health policy news and information visit our page [NMA Health Policy Updates](#)

Continue to visit our [Haiti Earthquake Relief](#) page for information on relief efforts.
The National Medical Association headquarters has moved to a new location. Beginning Monday, April 26th, the new address is:

**National Medical Association**
**8403 Colesville Road**
**Suite 920**
**Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-6331**
Works Cited


