



National Medical Association

POLICY BEAT

Weekly Digest

Jun 13th – Jun 17th, 2011

This Week in Health Policy...

- Extra Medicaid Funding To Expire
- MD Signs Up 1,000 Docs for HIT
- 11% Increase in Family Medicine Match
- Hospital Compare

Office of Health Policy and Government Relations



Protecting Medicaid: People of Color Are In Jeopardy!

Extra federal funding for Medicaid allocated to the states **because** of the recession will **expire** at the end of this month. Consequently, the states **will** either restrict benefits, turn people away, *or* reduce provider reimbursements to make up the shortfall. **Millions of people with disabilities, the poor, pregnant women, and vulnerable children** are all **at risk**. Medicaid must be protected! Please **urge** your elected officials to **preserve funding for this vital program**. More details [here](#).

Why Medicaid Matters:

- Largest provider of long-term care nationwide
- Covers services, such as home health care, that Medicare does not
- Cutting Medicaid reduces access to care, and increases disparities
- States lose \$1.33 in federal revenue for every \$1 they cut in Medicaid
 - Cutting Medicaid increases the burden on emergency rooms.

Health IT Adoption: CRISP REC Enrolls 1,000th Provider

CRISP, the Health Information Technology **Regional Extension Center** (REC) in **Maryland**, recently **signed up the 1,000th primary care provider in the state**. RECs have been authorized to help physicians across the country achieve the meaningful use of electronic health records (EHRs). As a result of reaching this milestone, **Maryland now leads the nation in enrolling physicians who are eligible for federally subsidized assistance**. More details are available [here](#).

Image credit: www.HealthITNow.org



Stocking the Pipeline: More Students Pursuing Family Medicine



According to [data](#) from the National Resident Matching Program, **11% more students will enter family medicine residencies in 2011 than in 2010.**

This is encouraging news, given the ever-increasing need for primary care providers (PCPs) due to: the increasing number of aging Americans; the enactment of the Affordable Care Act; and the projected shortage of available PCPs in the coming decade. More details are available [here](#).

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Image credit: KHN

Continuous Quality Improvement: Reducing Hospital Acquired Conditions



Every year, **hospital acquired conditions** cause tens of thousands of fatalities and billions of dollars in disability-related expenses. '[Hospital Compare](#)' evaluates the relative success of America's hospitals in dealing with this serious problem.

More details are available [here](#).

What You Can Do

- Please **call your Governors and Members of Congress RIGHT NOW**, and urge them to **preserve Medicaid**. Contact info [here](#) and [here](#).
- Is *Policy Beat* **helpful**? Please send us feedback at healthpolicy@nmanet.org
- New **email** address? Let us know at healthpolicy@nmanet.org



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

Resources

- Pear, Robert. "States Brace for End of Extra Payments for Medicaid." *The New York Times*. June 15 2011. Web.
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- "Cutting Medicaid: Harming Seniors and People With Disabilities." *Families USA*. May 2011. Web.
<http://www.familiesusa.org/resources/publications/reports/cutting-medicaid.html>
- "Adoption of Electronic Medical Records in Maryland Reaches Key Milestone." *CRISP*. June 6, 2011. Web.
<http://www.crisphealth.org/News/NewsArticles/tabid/141/articleType/ArticleView/articleId/61/CRISP-REC-Enrolls-1000th-Provider.aspx>
- "For Second Year, More U.S. Medical School Seniors Match to Primary Care Residencies." *Association of American Medical Colleges*. March 17, 2011. Web.
<https://www.aamc.org/newsroom/newsreleases/2011/180410/110317.html>
- "Hospital Compare." *U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. HHS.Gov*. April 11, 2011. Web.
<http://hospitalcompare.hhs.gov/>