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
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.
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
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](#).

Image credit: Reuters
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.

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