POLICY BEAT
Weekly Digest
March 21st – March 25th, 2011

This Week in Health Policy…

• Happy Anniversary!
• Colloquium 2011
• Colloquium 2011
• National Quality Strategy

Office of Health Policy and Government Relations
This week marks the one-year anniversary of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Within the past year, reforms such as those listed below have made a difference in the health of many Americans. The following benefits, among others, have laid a foundation on which to build:

- National strategies for prevention and quality
- Increased funding for community health
- Tax credits to help employers provide coverage
- No more denials for pre-existing conditions
- Seniors get rebates for prescriptions
- Younger Americans stay longer on parents’ plans

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Photo credit: AP
The Twelfth National Colloquium on African American Health was held from March 12th – 15th in Washington, D.C. Chaired by Dr. Leonard Weather Jr., President of the National Medical Association, this year’s event focused on:

- Implementing health care reform
- Collaboration between providers and legislators
- Environmental impact on the nation’s health
- Winning the battle against obesity
- The economic survival of the African American physician.

Colloquium 2011 ended with legislative visits and a luncheon on Capitol Hill. See photo on the next slide. Program materials will be available soon.

Photo credit: National Medical Association
Colloquium 2011:
The State of Health of Black Physicians and Their Patients
Improving Quality: Implementing a National Strategy

This week, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) unveiled a national plan to improve healthcare quality, as directed by the Affordable Care Act. The National Strategy for Quality Improvement in Health Care will be guided by principles developed with the input of all major stakeholders.

**National Aims:**

- Better (more patient-centric) Care
- Healthier People/Communities
- Reduced Costs

• Image credit: CDC
What You Can Do

• Please **call your members of Congress**, and urge them to **preserve vital funding for health care and public health programs**. Contact info [here](#).

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