This Week in Health Policy...

- FDA Statement on Makena
- ACO Proposed Rule – Seeking Comment
- EHR Adoption Among Physicians
- Secretary Sebelius’ Testimony

Office of Health Policy and Government Relations
Marketed by Ther-Rx Corporation, **Makena** (hydroxyprogesterone caproate) is a drug administered to women at risk for pre-term birth.

A new (prohibitively expensive) price for Makena was recently proposed by Ther-Rx, forcing advocates such as the National Medical Association to protest the 100-fold increase. In a stunning display of the efficacy of relentless advocacy, the FDA decided in favor of competition in order to bring the price down. More details available [here](#).

Image credit: FDA
This week, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a proposed rule for how Accountable Care Organizations (ACO) should be defined, created, and sustained, pursuant to the direction of the Affordable Care Act. CMS seeks public comment for the next 60 days, and will issue a final rule later this year.

National Aims:

• Better (more patient-centric) care
• Healthier people, healthier communities
• Pay for value, rather than pay for volume

Image credit: CDC
Eligibility for Incentives: HIT Adoption Among Physicians

Data recently published in Health Affairs show that 70.5% of office based physicians who are eligible for federal incentives do not yet have basic electronic health records (EHR). Researchers also found that practice ownership and size are key predictors of EHR use.

Other Key Facts:

- Four in five office-based doctors could qualify
- Incentives to be paid beginning 2011
- Low eligibility observed among pediatricians
Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS), Kathleen Sebelius, testified before the U.S. Senate’s Committee on Appropriations, regarding President Obama’s FY 2012 budget request for HHS. This video clip shows her testimony in its entirety. Her written testimony is available here.

Photo credit: United States Senate
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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