This Week in Health Policy...

- What Are ACOs?
- Health IT Workforce
- Reform and African Americans
- Community Health Centers
Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) are a key component of the national conversation surrounding health care delivery reform. Click here for video footage of a roundtable discussion on ACOs, featuring Dr. Elliott Fisher, the Dartmouth scholar credited with coining the phrase.

**ACO Highlights**

- Organized care
- Performance measurement
- Payment reform.

*Image credit: www.nejm.org*
This week, [Dr. David Blumenthal](#), the National Coordinator for Health IT, reminded providers of an **$84 million initiative to enhance the Health IT workforce**, as physicians prepare to transition from paper to electronic record-keeping.

This program will be administered at the community college and university levels, with [competency exams to determine proficiency](#). For more details, click [here](#).

Image credit: The White House
The Affordable Care Act provides significant improvements in the delivery of care to the underserved. This video synopsis describes what reform will mean for African Americans. Please share with your patients, and the rest of your networks. For details, click here.

Highlights:

• More coverage for the uninsured.
• Reduced disparities in care and health status.
• More preventive services.
• Less waste, fraud and abuse.
Community Health Centers: Protecting the Safety Net

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has announced the allocation of $727 million to fund community health centers across the nation. Click here for list of centers that received funding.

Community Health Centers:
• Serve 20% of low income, uninsured people
• Provide physical, mental and dental care
• Save the nations billions of dollars in ER costs.

• Photo credit: http://nachc.org
What You Can Do

• Let us know if you’re interested in a **medical home demo**. We welcome your feedback at [healthpolicy@nmanet.org](mailto:healthpolicy@nmanet.org)

• Get involved in **advocacy** at the local level!

• **New email address?** Let us know at [healthpolicy@nmanet.org](mailto:healthpolicy@nmanet.org)

For the latest health policy news and information, visit our page [NMA Health Policy Updates](http://www.nmanet.org).

Continue to visit our [Haiti Earthquake Relief](http://www.nmanet.org) page for information on relief efforts.
Resources


- “Help is On the Way.” *The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology*. October 12, 2010. Web. [http://healthit.hhs.gov/portal/server.pt/community/healthit_hhs_gov_10_12_10_the_health_it_workforce_development_program_help_is_on_the_way/3188](http://healthit.hhs.gov/portal/server.pt/community/healthit_hhs_gov_10_12_10_the_health_it_workforce_development_program_help_is_on_the_way/3188)

