This Week in Health Policy…
- Reform and the 2010 Midterms
- Reform: Candidates’ Positions
- Health IT Roundtable
- SGR and Medicare Payments
Governors, legislatures, and insurance commissioners will, by law, have considerable flexibility to implement the Affordable Care Act at the state level. Many of them are up for re-election on November 2nd, hence the importance of your vote next Tuesday. For more details, click here.

**At stake:**

- Medicaid expansion – how many will remain uninsured?
- Individual Mandate – is it unconstitutional?
- Insurance exchanges – more consumer choice?
- Medical Loss Ratio – more money for patient care?
- Physician compensation – new payment models?
Project Vote Smart is a non-partisan, volunteer-driven voter education project that seeks to educate Americans about the stated policy positions of political candidates in all 50 states. They have prepared a very helpful guide that will help you evaluate where your candidate stands on major health care issues. For details, click here.

Among other tools, they have also compiled useful data about polling places, ballot initiatives, and the judicial branch. Project Vote Smart accepts no corporate, PAC, or special interest contributions.

Image credit: Project Vote Smart
The Office of the National Coordinator (ONC) will host a free, day-long, public, Roundtable on Personal Health Records (PHR), on 3 December 2010, to discuss the evolving landscape in the PHR marketplace.

Click here to register for the event.

Roundtable Agenda:
• Mobile technologies
• Industry and consumer expectations
• Privacy and security.

• Image credit: The White House
In a recently released survey of its members, the Medical Group Management Association (MGMA) found that imminent reductions in Medicare reimbursement will likely compromise access to clinical care for the nation’s seniors. Currently, about 98% of MGMA members see Medicare patients.

If cuts take effect in a few weeks, MGMA members will consider the following options:

• Reduce the number of clinical staff (54.0%)
• Cease treating all Medicare patients (27.5%)
• Refuse to accept new Medicare patients (49.1%).

Click [here](#) to review MGMA’s press release.
What You Can Do

• **Vote November 2nd!** Effective implementation of health reform is at stake.

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Resources


