This Week in Health Policy…

- The Cost of Defensive Medicine
- HIT ‘Good Housekeeping’ Seal
- Medicaid and State Budgets
- 2010 NMA Convention Recap
In a study published in the September 2010 issue of Health Affairs, researchers conclude “defensive medicine practices exist, and are widespread, but their impact on medical costs is small.” They estimated that total medical costs in every specialty would only decline about 1% if medical malpractice premiums were reduced by 10%.

**Highlights**

The study examined:
- 400 million paid claims from CIGNA
- 35 medical specialties
- 3,143 counties
- 30 states
The Certification Commission for Health Information Technology and the Drummond Group Inc. have been designated Authorized Testing and Certification Bodies (ATCB) by the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC).

This designation, required by the HITECH Act, amounts to the HIT ‘Good Housekeeping’ stamp of approval. In order to meet the criteria for meaningful use, eligible providers must report the implementation of certified HIT systems. ATCBs will be the official arbiters of what systems merit certification. Addition applications for ATCB status are under review.

For more detail, click here.
Rising unemployment is a key contributor to growing Medicaid rolls. Americans who lose their jobs often lose employment-based coverage, forcing them to seek assistance from their states, at the same time that dwindling revenues force states to cut back on Medicaid spending. Vulnerable populations are therefore at risk around the nation, given that doctors could increasingly opt out of seeing Medicaid patients.

**Increase in Medicaid Enrollment, June 2008 – June 2009**

- **Maryland**: 20.4%
- **Utah**: 18.7%
- **Wisconsin**: 16.5%
- **Florida**: 16.3%

Do you see Medicaid patients?

Contact us: [healthpolicy@nmanet.org](mailto:healthpolicy@nmanet.org)

Photo credit: NCSL
2010 NMA Convention
(in case you missed it!)

HEALTH POLICY HIGHLIGHTS
For details, click here.

• Health Care Reform
  • Implementation
  • States’ roles
  • What NMA Can Do

• Health IT Adoption
  • Regional Extension Centers
  • Incentive Programs
  • Meaningful Use Requirements

• What NMA Can Do in 2010-2011
  • Respond to requests for comments
  • Suggest members for panels
  • Improve state and local advocacy
What You Can Do

- Please send us feedback – healthpolicy@nmanet.org
- Please send us your most current contact information – healthpolicy@nmanet.org
- Get involved in advocacy at the local level!

For the latest health policy news and information, visit our page NMA Health Policy Updates.

Continue to visit our Haiti Earthquake Relief page for information on relief efforts.
Resources


