This Week in Health Policy...

- HIT Deadlines!
- FY 2013 HHS Budget
- ACA Prevention and Public Health Fund
- Convention 2012 – Events Alert

Office of Health Policy and Government Relations
EHR Incentives: Meeting Meaningful Use Deadlines

Via Regional Extension Centers (REC), the Office of the National Coordinator (ONC) is assisting the nation’s clinicians who serve priority patients. The deadline for advising the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) of your intentions and activities regarding meeting Meaningful Use (MU) requirements for CY 2011 is **30 April, 2012**. For an overview of available resources, click [here](#).

**HIGHLIGHTS:**

- **Medicare** MU Incentive for 2011: **$18,000**
- **Medicaid** MU Incentive for 2011: **$21,250**

Image Credit: [CMS.Gov](#)
Last month, the U.S. House of Representatives voted 228-191 in favor of slashing discretionary spending in the federal budget. The plan, proposed by Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan (R-WI), would turn Medicare into a “premium support” program that would require seniors to pay more out of pocket for their healthcare. This week, House appropriators proposed a $150.002 billion cap for discretionary Labor Health and Human Services spending. More details re Ryan budget are available here.

Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, John Boehner, has proposed slashing the Prevention and Public Health Fund provided for in the Affordable Care Act. His rationale is that this fund can be used to offset lost revenue to the Treasury by keeping Stafford student loan rates at the current level. These interest rates will double this summer if Congress fails to act. More details are available here.

**Prevention and Public Health Fund:**
- $15 billion allocation;
- Covers tobacco cessation;
- Covers obesity prevention;
- Public health infrastructure;
- Workforce development;
- Prevention research.
This summer, the National Medical Association will head to New Orleans for its Annual Convention and Scientific Assembly, from 28 July to 1 August, 2012. Please plan ahead so as to maximize the opportunity to learn from key opinion leaders and benefit from cutting-edge and best in class research, policy, and practice.

There will be multiple sessions with a health policy and advocacy component, including the Mazique Symposium, the Opening Plenary, an advocacy session for NMA’s state and local leaders, and a session on the meaningful use (MU) of Health Information Technology (HIT). For a preliminary schedule click here.
What You Can Do

• Please **call or visit your Members of Congress**, and urge them to preserve optimal health care funding for prevention, Medicare, and Medicaid services. Contact info [here](#).

• **Is Policy Beat helpful?** Please send us feedback at [healthpolicy@nmanet.org](mailto:healthpolicy@nmanet.org)

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

For the latest health policy updates, visit our [RSS News Feed](#).
Resources


