This Week in Health Policy...

- 2.5M Young Adults Insured Via ACA
- SGR Will Pay Doctors +1% in 2012?
- The Burden of the Dually Eligible
- REC's Sign Up 100,000 Providers
Newly Insured:
2.5M Young People Insured Via ACA

This week, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced that **2.5 million young adults have become insured through their parents’ health plans since the Affordable Care Act was enacted.** More details are available [here](#).

**Highlights:**

- Number of **uninsured aged 19-25 decreased**
- Increased private coverage (orange line)
- Increased public coverage (blue line)
- More uninsured among those with less than high school education

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Image credit: [CDC/NCHS](#)
The U.S. House of Representatives has passed H.R. 3630, which, among other things, has provided for a 1% increase in Medicare reimbursements for doctors, rather than a 27% cut for calendar year 2012. The legislation is awaiting Senate action, as lawmakers scramble to fund the federal government and meet other vital obligations before the holiday recess. More details are available here.

Pictured above: Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid. Photo credit: Getty Images
Dually Eligible: Old, Poor, and Very Sick

Low-income individuals who qualify for both Medicare and Medicaid, known as ‘dual eligibles’, are typically the most costly patients to both programs. Recent data indicate that 37% of dual eligibles are functionally impaired, in addition to suffering from multiple chronic conditions. Comparatively, only 9% of ‘Medicare only’ seniors are functionally impaired and suffer from multiple chronic diseases. Dual eligibles cost Medicare at least twice as much in annual expenses as the ‘Medicare only’ population. More details are available here.

Image credit: MS Office Clip Art
Regional Extension Centers have been tasked to help providers who serve disadvantaged populations with Electronic Health Record (EHR) adoption. They have now recruited more than 100,000 primary care providers across the nation. This means that “roughly one third” of America’s primary care providers are now committed to ‘meaningful use’ by 2014. More details here. Please let us know if you’ve adopted EHRs in your practice. Email us at healthpolicy@nmanet.org

Image Credit: www.HealthITNow.org
What You Can Do

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

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Resources

• “2.5 Million Young Adults Gain Health Insurance Due to the Affordable Care Act.” *America’s Health Rankings*. December 2011. Web. [http://aspe.hhs.gov/health/reports/2011/YoungAdultsACA/ib.shtml](http://aspe.hhs.gov/health/reports/2011/YoungAdultsACA/ib.shtml)


