This Week in Health Policy...

- HHS FY 2013 Budget Proposal
- SGR Update
- ICD-10 Deadline Delayed
- Defeating Diabetes: Lifestyle Interventions
This week, President Obama unveiled his budget proposal for FY 2013. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) plan would prioritize on the implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), especially to help the States set up health insurance exchanges. More details are available here.

**Highlights:**

HHS Will Spend FY 2013 funds as follows:

- 56% on Medicare
- 30% on Medicaid
- 8% on discretionary programs
- 1% on other mandatory programs
This week, the U.S. Congress agreed on a plan to avert the 27% pay cut to doctors who treat Medicare patients. Final votes could occur as soon as Friday, February 17th. The plan would freeze payment at current levels through the end of the year. The National Medical Association (NMA) has opposed short-term fixes, and favors a permanent solution to the SGR inadequacy that creates this perennial problem. More SGR details are available here.

Pictured above: House Speaker John Boehner. Photo credit: Alex Wong/Getty Images
This week, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced that the deadline for ICD-10 compliance - originally scheduled for October 2013 - has been postponed. A new date, and process for compliance, will be announced in due course. For the most up-to-date news, including CMS’ recent notice about enforcement discretion, and to sign up for email updates, click here.

**Key date – January 1, 2012**: after this date, Medicare will begin accepting version 5010 for electronic transactions. Version 4010 will be accepted during an enforcement discretionary period, which will last through March 31 2012.
A nationwide diabetes prevention program could save the nation $5.7 billion in health care costs over the next 25 years, according to a research study that simulated downstream savings accrued from a significant upfront investment in preventing type 2 diabetes. Break-even occurs about year 14. Researchers used a community-based lifestyle intervention model. More details available here.

Image Credit: Health Affairs
What You Can Do

• Please call your Members of Congress, and urge them to preserve optimal funding for Medicare and Medicaid services. Contact info here.

• Is Policy Beat helpful? Please send us feedback at healthpolicy@nmanet.org

• New email address? Let us know at healthpolicy@nmanet.org

For the latest health policy updates, visit our RSS News Feed.
Resources


