This Week in Health Policy...

• Don Berwick Leaves CMS
• Medicare Pays for Obesity Prevention
• Gaps in Residency Training
• World AIDS Day
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Administrator, **Donald M. Berwick**, M.D., M.P.P., will return to Boston after **his tenure at CMS ends today**. Dr. Berwick resigned pursuant to vehement opposition to his confirmation by Republicans in the U.S. Senate. Principal Deputy Administrator Marilyn **Tavenner** has been nominated to succeed him. Dr. Berwick had the lead role in implementing the provisions of the Affordable Care Act that impact Medicare and Medicaid. More details are available [here](#).

Photo credit: Think Progress Health
Obesity Prevention: Medicare Will Pay for Screening and Counseling

This week, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services announced that they will begin paying for preventive services relative to obesity, as provided in the Affordable Care Act. More details are available [here](#).

**Highlights:**

- ~30% of Medicare patients obese
- Obesity = body mass index ≥ 30 kg/m²
- Weekly, monthly counseling sessions available
- Obesity = key risk factor for CVD

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Photo credit: [www.FoxNews.com](#)
A recent issue of *Health Affairs* reported the findings of a study designed to discern potential gaps in the skill sets physicians develop during residency. The authors conducted an email survey of 154 clinical department chiefs, asking them which characteristic they found lacking in new physician hires. Key survey findings are highlighted below. Study abstract [here](#).

**Survey Findings – Highlights**

Respondents perceived gaps in the following skill sets:

- Assuring the coordination of care
- Providing continuity of care
- Continuous quality improvement
- Understanding the social determinants of health
World AIDS Day: Obama Announces $50M Pledge

In commemoration of World AIDS Day on 1 December, President Barack Obama announced a commitment to increase AIDS funding by $50M for prevention and treatment in the US and around the world. More details are available here.

Photo credit: The White House
What You Can Do

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

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