POLICY BEAT
Weekly Digest
September 3rd – September 7th, 2012

This Week in Health Policy...

• GOP Health Care Platform
• Democratic Health Care Platform
• Translational Research
• Care Coordination Measures

Office of Health Policy and Government Relations
Last week, the Republican Party held its Convention in Tampa, FL, culminating in former Massachusetts governor, Mitt Romney, accepting their nomination for President of the United States. **Below are highlights of their health care platform.** More details are available [here](#).

**Highlights:**

- Repeal [Obamacare](#)
- Turn Medicaid into a block grant
- Promote health savings accounts (HSAs)
- Reduce costs through tort reform
- Support neuroscience research
- Ban human cloning
Democratic Platform 2012: Affordable Health Care for All Americans

This week, the Democratic Party held their Convention in Charlotte, NC, culminating in President Barack Obama accepting their nomination for President of the United States. Below are highlights of their health care platform (see page 3-4). For details, click here.

Highlights:

• **Fully implement the Affordable Care Act**
  • Strengthen the health care workforce
  • Reduce disparities in health and health care
• **Oppose turning Medicaid into a block grant program**
  • Invest in public health infrastructure.
Earlier this year, the National Institutes of Health established the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS).

The goal of NCATS is to partner with pharmaceutical and biotech companies to determine whether or not any new therapies can be developed from existing compounds. So far, eight companies are investigating 58 compounds in this initial pilot phase, and the research funding will be provided by NCATS. For more details, click here.
Care coordination measures developed by organizations such as Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the American Medical Association (AMA), and the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA), were recently endorsed by the National Quality Forum (NQF). The measures include – Medication Reconciliation Post-Discharge, Timely Initiation of Care, and Timely Transmission of Transition Record. More details are available here.

Photo credit: Spencer Platt – Getty Images
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](#).

