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The HealthWatch Wisconsin Update Newsletter

Your Source for Strategies, Suggestions & Stories on Accessing Health Care and Coverage in Wisconsin.

September 1, 2010

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HealthWatch Wisconsin

A Project of ABC for Health, Inc.

A statewide membership assuring a more competent, coordinated public health workforce.

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In This Issue:

- [Packer Ticket Prize Drawing Gets Bigger!](#)
- [Register Today: Immigrant Health Coverage Issues Workshop is in TWO WEEKS!](#)
- [Now Hiring: Health Benefits Advocate](#)
- [Health Care and Coverage A Priority for Wisconsin's Legislative Council](#)
- [Register Today for the Swipe Out Hunger Conference](#)
- [Save the Date: HealthWatch Wisconsin Fall Conference](#)
- [Making The Family Planning Waiver Permanent](#)
- [Hidden in Health Reform Legislation...](#)
- [Medicaid Follow-up: States Must Ask for the Money!](#)
- [Coalition Roundup!](#)
- [Opportunities to Develop New Coalitions!](#)
- [CASE TIP: It's Back to School for College Students!](#)
- [Grapevine: Will Health Reform Hurt Policies Colleges Offer Students?](#)
- [Mark Your Calendars Now](#)
- [NEWS: Health Care in Wisconsin](#)
- [NEWS: Health Care Reform](#)
- [NEWS: Opinion](#)
- [NEWS: Health Care Costs and Access](#)

Local HealthWatch Coalition Meetings:

Barron: TBD, 9:00-10:00am. Barron County Workforce Resource, Inc., 331 S. Main St., Ste. 6, Rice Lake. Contact [Mike Rust](#) or (715) 485-8525 with questions.

Packer Ticket Prize Drawing Gets Bigger!

In the second game of the regular season, **Aaron Rodgers and the Green Bay Packers** will host **Trent Edwards and the Buffalo Bills** at beautiful Lambeau Field. **You could be there!** Members of HealthWatch Wisconsin are eligible to win a pair of indoor, deluxe club seat tickets for:



**Green Bay Packers vs Buffalo Bills
Sunday, September 19, 2010, noon**



It's not too late to join HealthWatch and be eligible to win!

CLICK HERE TO JOIN and be eligible for the fourth Green Bay Packer Ticket Prize Drawing of the 2010-2011 membership year. **Join by 11:59pm on TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2010** to be entered into our prize drawing. Have questions or want more information? Call HealthWatch Wisconsin--you can even register or renew over the phone: (608) 261-6939 ext. 204.

Register Today: Immigrant Health Coverage Issues Workshop is in TWO WEEKS!

Join ABC for Health for training and discussion of public benefits options in Wisconsin for nonqualified immigrants, undocumented immigrants with citizen children, changes in new legislation affecting immigrants with legal permanent resident status, and more! **The Workshops are filling up! Be sure to register today to ensure a spot before we have to close registration.**



Please **CLICK HERE** to download a registration form. Print, Complete and Return your registration form to ABC for Health via **Mail: 32 N. Bassett St., Madison, WI 53703** or **Fax: (608)261-6938**.

This workshop is **FREE** for members of HealthWatch Wisconsin! Not a member? It's not too late to join and take advantage of significant savings. The cost is \$30 to join HealthWatch Wisconsin as an individual member AND attend the workshop!.

Madison	Milwaukee
Tuesday, September 14, 2010 9:00am-12:00pm Alliant Energy Center, Monona Room 1919 Alliant Energy Center Way Madison, WI 53713	Thursday, September 16, 2010 1:00pm-4:00pm Boy Scouts of America 330 S. 84th Street Milwaukee, WI 53214

Live or Work Outside the Greater Madison or Milwaukee Area? You can have exclusive access to this workshop on-demand--delivered straight to your desktop. **Check Future Editions of the Update Newsletter for information on how to register** to receive the training via web cast. The link will become available approximately one week after the live trainings have concluded.

Chippewa: TBD, 10:45am-12:00pm. Chippewa County Courthouse, Room 121, 711 N. Bridge St., Chippewa Falls. Contact [Rose Marsh](#) or 1-800-400-3678 with questions.

Dane: September 13, 9:00-11:00am. The Harambee Center, 2202 S Park Street, Madison. Contact [Erin McBride](#) or (608) 261-6939, ext. 211 with questions.

Dunn: TBD, 11:45am-1:00pm. Red Cedar Medical Center (Education Center), 2321 Stout Rd., Menomonie. Contact [Patrick Rebman](#) or (715) 233-7309 with questions.

Eau Claire: September 2, 2010, 12:00-1:30pm. Luther Hospital Cafeteria, Dining Room 1, 1221 Whipple St., Eau Claire. Contact [Lou Kelsey](#) or (715) 834-4455 or [Pat Perkins](#) or (715) 839-4718 with questions.

Milwaukee: September 8, 9:30am-11:30am. Aurora Family Services, 3200 W. Highland Blvd., Milwaukee. Contact [Kari Lerch](#) or (414) 449-4777, ext. 145 or [Ginger Dzick](#) at (414) 443-4527 with questions.

Milwaukee CHASE (Children's Health Access for the Special and Equal): TBA, 11:30am-1:30pm. ARC of Milwaukee, 7203 W. Center St., Milwaukee. Contact [Brad Holman](#) or (414) 266-3189 with questions.

Polk: TBD, 10:30am-12:00pm. Polk County Health Department, Conference Room A & B, 100 Polk County Plaza, Balsam Lake. Contact [Mike Rust](#) or (715) 485-8525 with questions.

Coalitions Under Development

La Crosse: Contact [Lindsey Schwarz](#) or (608) 785-5841 with questions.

Tri-County Coalition: Winnebago, Calumet and Outagamie Counties. TBD, 9:00-10:00am, Goodwill Community Center, Menasha Room. Contact [Susan Garcia Franz](#) for more information.

Detail and Attachments

In the article (at right) is a description of the Special Committees meeting with the Legislative Council before the next legislative session. Important conversations are occurring about health care and coverage. Below, find more detail and attachments relevant to these committee meetings.

Now Hiring: Health Benefits Advocate

ABC for Health, Inc. is seeking an interested and dedicated individual to fulfill the duties of a **Health Benefits Advocate**, responsible for providing information and referral, counseling and advocacy services to assist primarily families (many Spanish speaking) with children at a risk of receiving inadequate health care to obtain and maintain health care financing through public and private sources of benefits. Advocates also assess the need for legal services in consultation with the attorneys and other Health Benefits Counselors, and assist with case-related tasks. [Click Here for the full Position Announcement.](#) Please address interest with Cover Letter and Resume to: ABC for Health, Inc., Attn: Brynne McBride, 32 N. Bassett St, Madison, WI 53703 or bmcbride@safetyweb.org. ABC for Health, Inc. is an affirmative action employer.



Health Care and Coverage A Priority for Wisconsin's Legislative Council

The Legislative Council is charged to conduct studies of matters of concern to the Legislature, either during or between sessions of the Legislature, and to report its recommendations to the next general or special session. The Legislative Council is one of five nonpartisan legislative service agencies of the Wisconsin Legislature. The duties of the Legislative Council are:

- To provide nonpartisan legal, scientific and other research services and administrative support services to Joint Legislative Council study committees and other legislative standing committees and task forces;
- To serve as the Rules Clearinghouse for review of all proposed administrative rules; and
- To respond to research and information requests from legislators, legislative staff, other governmental agencies and other state legislatures in a confidential and nonpartisan manner.

Special committees have been formed to tackle important health care and coverage issues facing Wisconsin. Four are chronicled here. Stay tuned to the HealthWatch Reporter for a feature story on some of these committees, reaction to the first meeting, and a look ahead for 2010-2011. *More detail and attachments on each of the committees is located in this newsletter, at left, in the section titled "Detail and Attachments."*

1. 2010 Interim Study Committee on Health Reform Meets in Madison

On August 19, the 2010 "Interim Study Committee on Health Care Reform Implementation" met in Madison at the State Capitol Building. The Special Committee was directed to study and make recommendations on what changes should be made to Wisconsin's statutes and administrative rules in response to recently enacted federal health care reform legislation. The committee was directed to study all aspects of the federal legislation that affect Wisconsin including insurance market reforms, coverage for uninsured persons, preventive care, taxation, quality improvement, and health workforce issues.

2. Special Committee on Health Care Access Discusses Doctor/Nurse Shortages

This Special Committee, meeting for the first time on August 24 at the Legislative Council offices, was ready and eager to study potential solutions to the shortage of health care providers, particularly in rural areas and inner cities, and the adequacy of funding for public health. The Special Committee was directed to study possible state assistance to underserved areas and an expansion of Wisconsin's capacity for training family practice physicians and nurses, and additional funding sources for public health.

3. Special Committee on Review of Emergency Detention and Admission of Minors Under Chapter 51

August 31 was the first meeting of the new 2010 Interim Study Committee on emergency detention and admission of minors under Chapter 51. Led by Rep. Sandy Pasch and Sen. Dave Hansen, this Special Committee is directed to review the following provisions in ch. 51, Stats.: (a) the appropriateness of, and inconsistencies in, the utilization of emergency detention

1. Health Reform Implementation

- [Committee Member Listing](#)
- [Meeting Agenda](#)
- [Audio of Meeting](#)
- [Meeting Minutes](#)
- [Document](#), FOCUS on Health Reform, "Health Reform Implementation Timeline," Kaiser Family Foundation (June 15, 2010).
- [Document](#), State Legislators' Check List for Health Reform Implementation FY 2010, by Rachel Morgan R.N., BSN, Senior Health Policy Specialist, National Conference of State Legislatures (July 15, 2010).
- [Document](#), State Implementation of National Health Reform: Harnessing Federal Resources to Meet State Policy Goals, by Stan Dorn, prepared for State Coverage Initiatives by the Urban Institute (July 2010).
- [PowerPoint presentation](#), Implementing Health Care Reform in Wisconsin, by Karen Timberlake, Wisconsin Department of Health Services, and Sean Dilweg, Office of the Commissioner of Insurance.
- [PowerPoint presentation](#), Coordinating State Roles for Effective Implementation of Federal Health Care Reform, submitted by Alan Weil, Executive Director, National Academy for State Health Policy (August 29, 2010).
- [PowerPoint presentation](#), HIRSP Authority, HIRSP and Health Care Reform, submitted by Amie Goldman (August 19, 2010).
- [Testimony](#) from Bob Connolly, small business owner and Co-Chair of the Health Care Committee on Common Ground (August 19, 2010).
- [Health Care Reform Implementation Timeline](#), National Association of Insurance Commissioners, submitted by Office of the Commissioner of Insurance.

2. Health Care Access

- [Committee Member Listing](#)
- [Meeting Agenda](#)
- [Audio of Meeting](#)
- [Presentation](#), Health, Poverty and Health Care Spending, by Richard A. Cooper, MD, Professor of Medicine and Senior Fellow Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics, University of Pennsylvania (July 10, 2010).

procedures under s. 51.15, Stats., across this state, and the availability and cost of emergency detention facilities; (b) the inconsistent statutory approaches to emergency detention between Milwaukee County and other counties in the state; and (c) the inconsistent application of procedures relating to admission of minors under s. 51.13, Stats., as modified by 2005 Wisconsin Act 444.

4. Special Committee on Infant Mortality Meets September 8 at the State Capitol

The legislative council has created a special committee to study (a) the causes of infant mortality in Wisconsin; (b) evaluation of efforts that have been undertaken to address this problem in both the private and public sectors; (c) coordination of public health and Medicaid funding; (d) evaluation of infant mortality prevention programs that have been successful in other cities and states; (e) evaluation of the public health costs of not addressing the causes of infant mortality in Wisconsin; and (f) developing a strategic proposal, including any necessary legislation, to address infant mortality in Wisconsin, particularly disparities in infant mortality rates in different geographic areas of the state.

Register Today for the Swipe Out Hunger Conference

DON'T WAIT, REGISTER TODAY!

SWIPE OUT HUNGER CONFERENCE: Putting Food on Your Table and Money into Your Community through FoodShare

September 17, 2010
Radisson Paper Valley Hotel
Appleton, WI

Registration: The deadline for registration is **September 3** to ensure that your name will be included in the attendee roster and that you will have a printed name badge. Please find the registration form attached. Please [click here](#) to download a registration form! Individuals interested in registering for this great conference are invited to call their registrations into the SWIPE OUT HUNGER conference office at 920-560-5610. Registrations can also be emailed to [Julie](#) or faxed to 920-882-3655.



Learn how to use simple and effective everyday strategies to increase FoodShare enrollment in your community while you connect with people from all walks of life who are committed to a hunger-free Wisconsin. A small amount of your time may leverage hundreds of dollars of food every month for families who need and deserve this help, as well as put more money into local businesses!

Visit ABC for Health's Workshop: "Adding to Your Cart: Accessing FoodShare while Applying for BadgerCare Plus!"

ABC for Health will be presenting in the afternoon of September 17! Stop by to say hello, and learn a few tips for "one stop shopping" with your clients-maximizing programs available in Wisconsin for those of lower incomes.

Please visit the conference [website](#) to learn more.

Save the Date: HealthWatch Wisconsin Fall Conference

We're looking ahead to October--Mark your calendar for HealthWatch Wisconsin's:

The Changing Landscape of Insurance after Health Reform

a full day of workshops

**Thursday, October 28, 2010
9:00am-4:30pm
Inn on the Park
22 S. Carroll Street, Madison, WI 53703**

Reduced registration cost will be available for members of HealthWatch Wisconsin! [Join HealthWatch Wisconsin](#) to take advantage of savings throughout the year! Conference sessions will be led



- [Handout](#), Weighing the Evidence for Expanding Physician Supply, distributed by Richard Cooper, MD, University of Pennsylvania (undated).
- [Handout](#), Health Policy, distributed by Richard Cooper, MD, University of Pennsylvania (Spring 2010).
- [Presentation](#), Urban Health Access, by Jenni Sevenich, CEO Westside Healthcare Association.
- [Presentation](#), Rural Health Access & Workforce, by Tim Size, Director, Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative (August 24, 2010).
- [Handout](#), Quality of Care in Rural America, by Tim Size, Director, Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative (August 24, 2010).
- [Handout](#), Who Will Care For Our Patients?, from Dr. Carl Getto, University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health (October 2008).
- [Handout](#), MCW Perspective on Relevance of Reduced Student Capitation Funding on Wisconsin Physician Workforce, by Dr. Kenneth B. Simons, Medical College of Wisconsin (August 24, 2010).
- [Testimony](#), Nursing Faculty Shortage in Wisconsin, by Marilyn Kaufmann, PhD, RN, Nursing Program Chair, Lakeshore Technical College (August 24, 2010).

3. Review of Emergency Detention

- [Committee Member Listing](#)
- [Meeting Agenda](#)
- [Staff Brief 10-01](#), *Emergency Detention and the Treatment of Minors Under Wisconsin's Mental Health Statutes* (August 24, 2010).
- [Study](#) by the International Association of Chiefs of Police, "Building Safer Communities: Improving Police Response to Persons with Mental Illness" (June 2010).

4. Infant Mortality

- [Committee Members Listing](#)
- [Meeting Agenda](#)
- [Wisconsin Healthy Birth Outcomes](#): Minority Health Program Challenges and Contributions, *Journal of Public Health Management Practice*, November 2008.
- [2007 Wisconsin Act 20](#), Reducing Fetal and Infant Mortality and Morbidity Report, Racine Healthy

by regulators, policy makers, and advocates in Wisconsin, including: Wisconsin's Commissioner of Insurance Sean Dilweg, representatives from Wisconsin's Health Insurance Risk Sharing Plan, Bobby Peterson and attorneys from ABC for Health, members of the Wisconsin Legislature, and more!

HealthWatch Wisconsin will debut its new publication "My Health Reform Guidebook for Wisconsin" at this event! The publication is included FREE for members of HealthWatch Wisconsin!!

Continuing education credits will be offered for attorneys, social workers, and other professionals. A light breakfast and lunch and conference CD will be included in your reservation cost! Further details will be released as confirmed. See you in Madison in October!

Making The Family Planning Waiver Permanent

Wisconsin Plans to Expand the Family Planning Waiver

Since 1972, States have been required to provide family planning services and supplies to Medicaid populations. Prior to this Spring, States did not have the option to provide these same family planning services and supplies under their Medicaid State plans to individuals otherwise ineligible for Medicaid, including parents with incomes above State eligibility levels and non-disabled adults who were not caring for children. Yet, providing these family planning services has been found to be extremely cost effective for the Medicaid program. Therefore, the Secretary of Health and Human Services has granted targeted "section 1115 family planning demonstrations" to permit States to cover family planning services and supplies for individuals not otherwise eligible for Medicaid. With the enactment of health reform, States now have the option to offer, under State plan authority, eligibility for family planning coverage for individuals who were previously ineligible for Medicaid. Up until this point in time, funding for Wisconsin's Family Planning Waiver has been conditional, and the state has had to regularly reapply for funding. Now, Wisconsin can make its plan permanent, which means it will also get its federal funding much faster. In June of 2010, Wisconsin applied to the federal government to raise the qualifying income limit to \$32,490, which would mean a significant expansion in the number of individuals who could receive services. Wisconsin's Medicaid Director Jason Helgerson talked with the Wisconsin News Service's Bob Hague about the potential expansion.

Read the article [here](#).

A Refresher on Wisconsin's Family Planning Waiver

This plan provides certain family planning services to women ages 15 through 44. The purpose of this plan is to stop unplanned pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases. Federal law allows members to choose a provider, including physicians and family planning clinics, for family planning services and supplies. Individuals can also go to any family planning clinic that will accept a ForwardHealth ID card, even if the clinic is not part of the individual's HMO.

Current Eligibility

- An individual must be a U.S. citizen, or have proof of immigration status,
- Age 15 through 44,
- Not be getting ForwardHealth for the Elderly, Blind or Disabled or BadgerCare Plus Standard or Benchmark Plans, and
- Have a family gross income of no more than 200% of the federal poverty level (For minors, parents' income is not counted).

Family Planning Waiver for Men

Remember, effective May 1, 2010, the Family Planning Waiver Plan provides certain family planning services to men ages 15 through 44. The primary purpose of this plan is to prevent unplanned pregnancies. So, the covered services are limited to family planning and related services like the testing and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases/infections (STDs/STIs).

A Closer Look at Family Planning in Health Reform

Health reform has made it possible for a new, expanded Medicaid eligibility group. States have the option to begin providing medical assistance for family planning services and supplies to individuals eligible under this new group. [Under this new option](#), Federal funding will be

Birth Healthy Families Program,
October 2007-December 2008.

It's Not Too Late To Join HealthWatch Wisconsin!

The 2010-2011 membership year has begun, but it's not too late to join! Take 5 minutes to complete and return our [MEMBERSHIP FORM](#) to make sure you are connected to great materials, information and events.

Join as an individual member for \$30
- OR -

Get together with co-workers and join as an organization for only \$120.

Joining or Renewing your HWW membership today gives you:

- Access to 12 publications valued at over \$200 including the NEW "My Guide to National Health Reform," available Fall 2010.
- Access to reduced trainings, workshops, and conferences on health care hot topics, including online trainings through the HWW Training Portal site.
- A voice in a state-wide advocacy organization that works toward quality and accessible health care for people across Wisconsin!

Join an organization committed to unifying the public health workforce, with emphasis on teaching, training, and information sharing! The membership year runs July 1, 2010-June 30, 2011. Questions? Call HealthWatch Wisconsin staff for more information: (608)261-6939 ext. 210.

Updates from DHS

BadgerCare Plus Handbook Updated

Below. On August 12, Wisconsin's Department of Health Services released an updated version of its BadgerCare Plus Handbook. Check it out [here](#). For quick reference, DHS released a memo of the consolidated changes. Read it [here](#).

ACCESS Handbook Updated

Below. On August 5, Wisconsin's

available for States to provide coverage under the State plan for family planning and family planning-related services and supplies to individuals (men and women) that States could previously offer only through demonstration projects.

New Eligibility Group: These eligible individuals are those who are not pregnant and whose income does not exceed the income eligibility level established by the State.

Benefits Available: Services are limited to family planning services and supplies, as well as medical diagnosis and treatment services that are provided pursuant to a family planning service in a family planning setting.

Presumptive Eligibility Period: begins with the date on which the qualified entity determines that the individual is eligible based on preliminary information. This period ends with and includes the earlier of:

- The day on which a formal eligibility determination is made for the family planning program under the Medicaid State plan; or
- For an individual who does not file an application by the last day of the month following the month during which the individual was determined presumptively eligible, the last day of that month is the last day of the presumptive eligibility period.

Hidden in Health Reform Legislation...

...Enhanced Adoption Assistance!

Health Care Reform, a.k.a., the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act increased the employer-provided adoption assistance exclusion and the adoption tax credit each to \$13,170 for all adoptions, including adoptions of children with special needs. In addition, health reform allows for the credit and exclusion to be adjusted for inflation beginning Jan. 1, 2011. That adjustment is made by multiplying the statutory limit by the cost of living adjustment for the calendar year in which the tax year begins. Employers that offer adoption assistance and employees who take advantage of it — or that claim the adoption tax credit — need to make adjustments, as the legislation that changed the thresholds for adoption assistance is retroactive to January 1, 2010.

Refresher on Adoption Assistance in Wisconsin:

To be eligible for assistance, a child must have, or be at risk of developing special needs and otherwise would not be able to be placed for adoption without adoption assistance. [Adoption assistance](#) is determined by the special care needs of the child and may include:

- Medical assistance for some medical costs not covered by the family's health insurance;
- A monthly amount to the adoptive parent(s) to assist in meeting the financial demands of caring for a child's special care needs; and
- Reimbursement of reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in order to complete the adoption (e.g., legal fees and/or agency fees)

Eligibility criteria for the child, as defined in [Wisconsin Administrative Code DCF 50](#), Facilitating the Adoption of Children with Special Needs is:

- 10 to 18 years of age;
- Exhibiting emotional, behavioral or physical/personal care characteristics to a degree that meets established criteria;
- Member of a sibling group of three or more who must be placed together;
- Member of a minority race who cannot be readily placed due to a lack of appropriate placement resources; or
- At risk of developing special care needs

For More Information on:

- Employer-provided adoption assistance, visit the publication: [Employer's Handbook: Complying with IRS Employee Benefit Rules](#).

Department of Health Services released an updated version of its ACCESS Handbook, version 10-03. Check it out [here](#).

Provider Updates

Non-emergency Transportation Is Now Covered by the BadgerCare Plus Benchmark Plan

Due to changes in federal regulations, effective for dates of service (DOS) on and after July 1, 2010, the BadgerCare Plus Benchmark Plan will cover non-emergency transportation. Non-emergency transportation can be provided by common carrier and by specialized medical vehicle (SMV) providers.

Reminder Regarding Charging Members Fees for Health Care Records

Providers are reminded that, per s. 146.83, Wis. Stats., they **may not charge a fee** for providing one set of copies of health care records to members who are enrolled in Wisconsin Medicaid or BadgerCare Plus programs.

ClaimCheck Clarification

This ForwardHealth Update provides clarification of ForwardHealth's use of ClaimCheck review software in the claims processing system. ForwardHealth uses ClaimCheck software to review all professional claims. Information in this Update applies to providers who render services to Wisconsin Medicaid and BadgerCare Plus members. ForwardHealth monitors all professional claims for compliance with reimbursement policy using automated procedure coding review software known as McKesson ClaimCheck®. ClaimCheck reviews submitted claims for billing inconsistencies and errors during claims processing. Insurance companies, Medicare, and other state Medicaid programs use similar software. ClaimCheck review does not change Medicaid or BadgerCare Plus policy on covered services but monitors compliance with policy more closely and reimburses providers appropriately.

Reminders and More Information about Important Changes for Private Duty Nursing Providers

Effective for dates of service (DOS) on and after May 1, 2010, ForwardHealth implemented important changes for providers of private duty nursing (PDN) services to members who are enrolled in

- The Wisconsin Adoption Assistance Program administered through the Department of Children and Families:
 - [Visit the Department's web site.](#)
 - Contact a licensed Wisconsin adoption agency;
 - Contact the Toll Free Number at 866-666-5532 in the Division of Safety and Permanence, Department of Children and Families.
 - Contact the [appropriate regional](#) office that serves your county of residence.

Medicaid Follow-up: States Must Ask for the Money!

In the last edition of the HealthWatch Update, we brought you a story called "**Boost to Medicaid and BadgerCare Plus Coming to Wisconsin**," chronicling the passage of [HR 1586, the Education Jobs and Medicaid Assistance Act](#), which was quickly signed into law by President Barack Obama. The Education Jobs and Medical Assistance Act will provide states with a total of \$26 billion for teachers and health care programs. For Wisconsin, the impact could be as large as \$365 million, with just over half (\$185 million) going to Medicaid programs and the remaining \$180 million to prevent teacher layoffs. The funding is necessary to relieve an estimated \$647 million out of an \$850 million deficit in Wisconsin's budget for BadgerCare Plus and other Medicaid programs. The funding preserves additional federal matching money. The legislation was approved mainly along party lines by a vote of 247-161.

On August 19, 2010, Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius sent a letter to all of America's governors telling them that if they want to continue receiving the enhanced Medicaid funds that Congress approved, **they have to ask for the money**. Governors have until September 24 to ask for the funds. [Click here](#) to read more about this developing issue, and view the text of Secretary Sebelius' letter.

Coalition Roundup!

Local HealthWatch Coalitions have been busy! Below is a brief look at some events, announcements, and news from around the State. Coalition contacts are listed in the sidebar if you have questions on a story or would like to follow up with the coalition directly.



The **Tri-County HealthWatch Coalition** is interested in working with ABC for Health to bring a training to the Fox Valley. **Please contact [Susan Garcia-Franz](#) if you would be interested in attending a training in that area.**

Dane County HealthWatch meets Monday, September 13, where Guest Speaker Jon Peacock from the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families will discuss what WCCF is doing in the wake of Health Reform, changes to FMAP, and new boosts for states, including possible sunset provisions. Please note that contrary to what has been previously advertised, Dane County HealthWatch will again be meeting at the Harambee Center (2202 S Park Street) and will be meeting there for the rest of the year. Dane County HealthWatch thanks David Smith for the Harambee Center's continued hospitality! For more information on meetings or Dane County HealthWatch, please contact [Adam VanSpankeren](#).

Polk County HealthWatch's August 12 meeting and presentation on BadgerCare Plus and the Core Plan's relationship to COBRA has been postponed. New date and time TBD. Contact [Mike Rust](#) for more information.

Eau Claire HealthWatch Coalition meets tomorrow, September 2nd at the Luther Hospital Cafeteria. Please see the sidebar for more time and place information. Guest speakers will include Becca Rouse, the Executive Director of the Clairemont Nursing Home and TruRehab of Eau Claire, and Cheri McCormick who will speak about the history, services, and purpose of Medical Rehabilitation Centers.

Milwaukee's CHASE HealthWatch Coalition checked in at the Local Coalitions call this month - a lot of Express and Full Enrollment for BadgerCare Plus going on over there, and with the CHASE's focus on children and youth, back to school is a big time for that. CHASE is also considering revitalizing an active HealthWatch meeting to discuss direction and

the BadgerCare Plus Standard Plan and Medicaid. This ForwardHealth Update pertains to information originally published in the March 2010 Update (2010-15), titled "[Important Changes for Private Duty Nursing Providers](#)," which introduced and detailed these changes. This Update includes reminders about certain important changes for PDN providers and more information about preparing claims for services provided on days when clocks are adjusted to accommodate changes to daylight-saving time. Note: The online handbook has not been revised to incorporate changes included in this Update

[Reminder of Deficit Reduction Act Policy for Prescribers](#)

This ForwardHealth Update reminds prescribers of the claim submission requirements of the [Deficit Reduction Act of 2005](#). Under the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (DRA), providers are required to submit National Drug Codes (NDCs) with Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) procedure codes on claims for provider-administered drugs. [Section 1927\(a\)\(7\)\(B\) of the Social Security Act](#) requires NDCs to be indicated on all claims submitted to ForwardHealth, including Medicare crossover claims. If an NDC is not indicated on a claim submitted to ForwardHealth, or if the NDC indicated is invalid, the claim will be denied. Radiopharmaceuticals are included in the DRA requirements. Providers will be required to indicate NDCs with HCPCS procedure codes on claims for radiopharmaceuticals.

[Deficit Reduction Act Policy for End-Stage Renal Disease Services Providers](#)

This ForwardHealth Update reiterates the [Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 \(DRA\)](#) policy for end-stage renal disease (ESRD) providers who submit claims for provider-administered drugs. Effective for dates of service on and after September 15, 2010, ForwardHealth is enhancing claims processing for ESRD claims for provider-administered drugs to ensure claims contain all information that is required under the DRA. Under the DRA, providers are required to submit National Drug Codes (NDCs) with Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) procedure codes on claims for provider-administered drugs. [Section 1927\(a\)\(7\)\(B\) of the Social Security Act](#) requires NDCs to be indicated on all claims submitted to ForwardHealth, including Medicare crossover claims. If an NDC is not indicated on a claim submitted to

objectives. Please contact [Brad Holman](#) for more information.

Opportunities to Develop New Coalitions!

Attention Local Public Health Departments:

Opportunities exist to form new, sustainable HealthWatch Coalitions. ABC for Health, Wisconsin's Department of Health Services, and HealthWatch Wisconsin are helping to support a sustainable, inter-connected network of new community-based HealthWatch Coalitions to promote access to and retention of health care coverage for children. Coalitions are strongly encouraged to include local health departments as the key stakeholder. Your County can create a coalition to develop a sustainable plan to connect and maintain family connections to health coverage, care, and resources.

Getting Started:

Start by identifying community partners and leaders, including representatives from hospital systems, Head Start, parents, Birth-to-3 Coordinators, public health nurses, economic support workers, school nurses and counselors, advocates, employers, and members of the faith community. Then, watch for an RFP! The Wisconsin Department of Health Services and HealthWatch Wisconsin will issue a call for proposals to invite coalitions to compete for funding. We will prioritize coalition development for low-enrollment, under-performing or health disparity locations across Wisconsin. In fact, HealthWatch Wisconsin will prioritize coalition development where local health departments take a leading role. After funding, HealthWatch Wisconsin will continue to help with ongoing technical consultation and leadership training. We will be looking for areas that can DEVELOP and SUSTAIN a coalition, after the start-up assistance is complete.

Have questions or want more information at this time? Contact [Brynne](#) at ABC for Health (608) 261-6939 ext. 210.

CASE TIP: It's Back to School for College Students!

An estimated 19 million college students will be enrolling in classes this fall¹, and as many as 12%² students may be uninsured. With several provisions of federal health reform legislation coming into effect on September 23, 2010, college students and their parents may not fully understand their health insurance options. Please take some time to review the following three "Frequently Asked Questions" to help this year's students find the best health insurance solution for their health needs and personal budget:

1. Question: Do I need to have health insurance when I go to school?

Answer: Most colleges and universities require students to have some kind of health insurance coverage. Students may contact their school for more information, but should keep in mind that health insurance is about more than getting access to health care when you need it. It also helps limit financial liability for expenses that may arise from an unforeseen accident or injury -- expenses that could potentially bankrupt the students or their parents, or your parents and seriously damage credit scores or prospects for the future. Whether or not the school requires it, make sure your student is covered!

2. Question: What are the health insurance options students can choose from this year?

Answer: Most college students in 2010 will choose from among the following five types of health insurance coverage:

- **Parents' health insurance plans.** A provision of federal health reform law that becomes effective in 2010 allows adult children to keep their coverage under a parent's health insurance policy until age 26, whether or not they are currently enrolled in college. The parent's policy might be group coverage sponsored through an employer or an individual or family policy purchased by the parent. Some employer-based plans are accepting students now while others may wait until January 1, 2011 before allowing students to re-enroll. Please note that Wisconsin has its own dependant coverage law, which provides coverage for adult children until the age of 27. Please [click here](#) for

ForwardHealth, or if the NDC indicated is invalid, the claim is denied.

[BadgerCare Plus Basic Plan Members Diagnosed with Cancer May Be Enrolled in the BadgerCare Plus Core Plan](#)

Effective immediately, members enrolled in the BadgerCare Plus Basic Plan who are diagnosed with cancer, excluding non-melanoma skin cancers, may bypass the waitlist and apply for the BadgerCare Plus Core Plan. The diagnosis of cancer may be a new diagnosis since the member was enrolled in the Basic Plan or it may be a pre-existing condition.

[Changes to Assistant Surgeon Policy](#)

Effective for dates of service on and after September 1, 2010, ForwardHealth will revise the list of procedure codes for which it reimburses assistant surgeon services to be consistent with national standards (recommendations from McKesson ClaimCheck® automated procedure coding review software). ForwardHealth currently accepts four assistant surgeon modifiers; this is a revision to previously published policy that identified only one acceptable modifier. ForwardHealth monitors all professional claims for compliance with reimbursement policy using ClaimCheck. ClaimCheck recommends whether assistant surgeon services for surgery procedures should never or always be reimbursed. The American College of Surgeons is ClaimCheck's primary source for determining assistant surgeon reimbursement recommendations.

Calls for Submissions and Volunteers

[ABC for Health](#) is seeking legal interns for Fall 2010! All interested volunteers, students with public interest fellowships or work-study awards are encouraged to apply by sending an email with a cover letter and resume to bmcbride@safetyweb.org.

DHS Resources: BadgerCare Plus Core Plan:

- [To Apply Online \(ACCESS\)](#)
- [Core Plan Publications Page](#)
- [ForwardHealth Enrollment and Benefits Booklet](#)
- [BadgerCare Plus Policy Handbook \(Core Plan is Ch. 43\)](#)

more information on that coverage option for insurance plans governed by the law of Wisconsin.

- **Individually-purchased health insurance plans.** Many students purchase coverage on their own in the form of an individual, non-group policy. There is a broad variety of individual coverage options to choose from nationwide. However, until 2014, in most states it is still possible to be declined for individual coverage based on pre-existing medical conditions.
- **School-sponsored health plans.** Many colleges and universities offer their own health insurance plans to students. Some of these plans place strict limits on the range of benefits covered and may limit access to only those doctors and services available through an on-campus student health center. As regulations for health reform laws continue to be written, the future of school-sponsored plans is uncertain.
- **Individually-purchased student health plans.** These plans may resemble school-sponsored plans by placing specific limits on certain benefits, but they typically offer more freedom in obtaining medical care away from campus. Student health plans may be especially valuable for those going to school in a different state. While the post-reform future of these products is also uncertain, new and innovative student health plans with richer benefits are being introduced to the market.
- **Government insurance options.** These may include state or federal insurance programs such as Medicaid or high risk pools (such as Wisconsin's HIRSP plans, available [online](#)). In order to qualify for some of these products enrollees must have a diagnosis for a pre-existing medical condition on file with their doctor. In some instances, the enrollee may also need to have been previously uninsured for a minimum of six months.

3. Question: What should a student do if she can't re-enroll in her parents' plan until January 2011?

Answer: The provision of federal health reform that allows adult children to stay on their parents' plan comes into effect on September 23, 2010. However, due to open enrollment schedules, some employer-based plans may not allow you to re-enroll in a parent's plan until January 2011. If students need a stop-gap to provide coverage until then, they may consider purchasing an individual health insurance plan, which can be paid month-to-month and cancelled at any time. Short-term health insurance plans offer another solution, but please note that short-term plans typically don't cover preventive care, pre-existing medical conditions or prescription drugs.

Footnotes:

1 [U.S. National Center for Education Statistics as cited in the Statistical Abstract of the United States: 2010, Table 214](#)

2 [eHealthInsurance's 2010 College Student Survey](#)

Grapevine: Will Health Reform Hurt Policies Colleges Offer Students?



School is back in session this week for many colleges and universities! Confusion is running rampant about how the new health reform law affects college health plans. [Julie Appleby](#), reporter for Kaiser Health News, has looked into the new health reform rules and explored why colleges and universities fear they will no longer be able to offer low-cost, limited benefit student insurance policies. School representatives suggest that they will try to continue to offer affordable, low cost plans for students. These plans have taken some heat for offering insufficient coverage, encouraging critics to suggest the schools' student health plans to be held to the same standards as other insurance. More importantly, colleges want to be sure they are not required to offer policies to non-students.

What do you think? Should school plans be offered any special protection in the regulations now being developed to implement the health reform law? Is it in the best interest of our students to continue to protect lower premiums, or to ensure a higher quality coverage consistent with other "individual policies?" [Send us an email](#) with your thoughts. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius will be offering her ideas on this topic in the near future, via letter to the American Council on Education. We'll keep you posted on how this conversation develops in future editions of the Update.

Phone Support

- For questions from **applicants:**
The Enrollment Services Center: 1-800-291-2002
- For questions from **advocates/professionals:**
(608)261-9305 or 1-888-415-2116. (DHS has asked that this number not be shared with the public.)

For Milwaukee Residents--the new Milwaukee Enrollment Services (MiES) contacts:

Phone: 1-888-947-6583 (voice) 711 (TTY)

Mail : Milwaukee Enrollment Services Center (MiES), P.O. Box 05676, Milwaukee, WI 53205-0676
FAX: (414) 438-4580

In Person: 1220 W Vliet Street -or- UMOS Job Center Southeast, 2701 South Chase Ave. -or- clients can call 211 for information on a community access point in their area

Emails:

dhsmiles@wisconsin.gov - for new applications, verifications, etc.
dhsmileschanges@wisconsin.gov - for scanning changes (HTF only scanning changes from cases)
dhsmilescustomerservice@wisconsin.gov

- Note: This is an email for advocates only: use to email MiES with advocate questions.

Contact Information in Milwaukee County:

- [Contact Information Fliers](#)
- [Online Order Form](#)
- [Referral Sheet](#)
- [Guide to Applying](#)

Previous Issues of the Update:

[View our Update Newsletter Library Online!](#)

Recent HealthWatch WatchDog Episodes:

Did you miss an episode? [Visit our WATCHDOG LIBRARY to view videos](#) from 2008-present.

Lifeline and Link-Up Services!

Telecommunications assistance is

CKSN Corner

Covering Kids with Special Needs



Mark Your Calendars Now Check Out These Excellent Events in 2010!

- **Wisconsin Women's Health Foundation 5th Annual Dialogue - "Bending the Cost Curve - Wisconsin Style" - September 14, 2010.** 7:30 AM - 10:30 AM. Sheraton Madison Hotel, 706 John Nolen Drive, Madison, WI 53713. Please RSVP by September 9th - call the Wisconsin Women's Health Foundation at 1-800-448-5148 or email wwhf@wwhf.org.
- **Care in the Community Conference - Wednesday, September 22, 2010.** Radisson Hotel, Wauwatosa, WI. A conference to provide families and providers who care for children and youth with special health care needs with the information and tools they need. For more information, see www.maxishare.com/conferences
- **2010 Fall Conference - Autism Society of Wisconsin - Thursday, September 23, 2010 - Friday, September 24, 2010.** Wintergreen Resort, Wisconsin Dells, WI. Registration by mail or fax only. Click [here](#) for the registration form and more information.
- **Midwest Autism Conference - October 10-12, 2010.** La Crosse Center, La Crosse, WI. Join the UW-La Crosse Continuing Education Department and Chileda, Inc. for a comprehensive conference covering strategies that support individuals on the Autism Spectrum in school, home, and treatment environments. For more information, go to <http://www.uwlax.edu/conted/mac/> or call Karen Langaard to register, 1-866-895-9233.
- **Assistive Technology Expo - October 21, 2010.** 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM. Engineering Centers, University of Wisconsin - Madison, 1550 Engineering Drive, Madison, WI 53706. FREE! For more information, please [click here](#).
- **Expanding Opportunities and Relationships for Youth in Transition - October 21, 2010.** Holiday Inn, Stevens Point, WI. Registration information will be available September 15 - watch for more information. Event is co-sponsored by the Wisconsin Community on Transition, the Autism Society of Wisconsin, and the Community of Practice on Autism Spectrum Disorders and other Developmental Disabilities
- **Children Come First Conference - See My World: New Perspectives on Children's Mental Health - November 7-9, 2010.** Kalahari Resort and Convention Center, Wisconsin Dells. For more information contact Wisconsin Family Ties, 608-267-6800 or 800-422-7145 or visit www.familyties.org
- **2010 Mental Health Consumer Conference - "Mental Health Reform: Advocating for Our Future" - November 22 and 23, 2010.** Kalahari Resort and Convention Center, Wisconsin Dells, WI.

Wisconsin First Step Help Book 2010 A Directory of Services for Children with Special Needs Directories are now [available on-line](#). Five regional directories are available, each serving specific counties in Wisconsin. Directories are produced in "real-time" with the most up-to-date information provided at the time they are downloaded. For information or assistance in downloading the directories please contact Teresa Halverson or Karen Brandt at [Wisconsin First Step](#); 1-800-642-7837.

Updated Contact Listing (12/10/2009) for the Regional CYSHCN Centers. Questions? Email Jayne Vargas

Katie Beckett Program Consultants: [View the Map and Listing of Consultants](#)

Tip Sheets for Siblings of People with Disabilities: [Adolescent and Young Adult Siblings](#);

available for many in Wisconsin! If you receive health benefits, housing, FoodShare or other public program assistance, and are under 135% FPL, you may qualify. To learn more, watch the new video filmed by ABC for Health on Lifeline and Link-Up services. Please [click here](#) to view the video.

Rent the ABC for Health Studio

ABC for Health has developed a web casting studio with state of the art technology to reach a mass audience in the comforts of their own homes or offices. Agencies and organizations are invited to rent this studio space. [Click here](#) for more information.

Support Our Efforts!

On behalf of the staff and students at ABC for Health, thank you for being a subscriber to the HealthWatch Wisconsin Update and WatchDog. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to ABC for Health, to keep projects like HealthWatch Wisconsin sustainable! **To make a donation, please click the donation button** to be re-directed to our PayPal site where you can donate with a credit card.

[Make A Donation](#)

To donate via check, please make the check payable to "ABC for Health, Inc.," at 32 N. Bassett St., Madison, WI 53703. We greatly appreciate your generous donations. ABC for Health is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization, and your contribution is deductible to the extent allowed by law. **Thank you!**

We're on Facebook and Twitter!

Look for ABC for Health and Health Watch Wisconsin on [Facebook](#), and become a follower of ABC for Health on [Twitter!](#)

Contact Us

Have ideas, events, or success stories to share? [Email your suggestions!](#) All submissions should be limited to 150 words.

HealthWatch Wisconsin Update Staff

Adult Siblings: Information for Parents

Wisconsin's Department of Health Services has released a new Maternal Child Health/Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs [UPDATE](#)

NEWS: Health Care in Wisconsin

Use the links below to access recent news on health care and coverage in Wisconsin:

- [WEA Trust to broaden its coverage - by Guy Boulton for the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, August 30](#)
- [Froedtert & Community Health becomes Froedtert Health - by Guy Boulton for the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, August 30](#)
- [At these clinics, income no object - by David Wahlberg for the *Wisconsin State Journal*, August 30](#)
- [UW Health hopes clinic is a rebirth - by David Wahlberg for the *Wisconsin State Journal*, August 29](#)
- [Barrett, Walker plans would add workers to health pool - by Jason Stein for the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, August 29](#)
- [CEO of Milwaukee Health Services dies - by Guy Boulton for the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, August 27](#)
- [Disability Rights Wisconsin: Statement on transition at Milwaukee County Mental Health Complex - contact: Barbara Beckert, for *WisPolitics*, August 26](#)
- [Chianelli demoted as head of Mental Health Complex - by Steven Schultze and Meg Kissinger for the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, August 25](#)
- [Wisconsin Makes Push for Free Birth Control - by Janet Adamy for the *Wall Street Journal*, August 18](#)
- [Dean to build new clinic in Edgerton - by David Wahlberg for the *Wisconsin State Journal*, August 18](#)
- [Wisconsin Makes Nice on Medicaid Cuts - by Ryan Tracy for *Newsweek*, August 16](#)

NEWS: Health Care Reform

Follow the links below to access recent news articles on reforming the health care system:

- [Slightly Premature Babies At Risk For Cerebral Palsy - by Allison Aubrey for *NPR*, August 31](#)
- [2,000 groups approved for early-retiree health care funds - by N.C. Aizenman for the *Washington Post*, September 1](#)
- [HHS Pushes Competition With Health Insurance Site - by Nicole Lewis for *InformationWeek*, August 30](#)
- [Groups Press Congress To End Patients' Wait for Medicare - by Jessica Marcy for *Kaiser Health News*, August 27](#)
- [Promoting Prevention through the Affordable Care Act - by Howard K. Koh and Kathleen Sebelius for the *New England Journal of Medicine*, August 25](#)
- [Health Law Requires Continued Coverage For Patients In Clinical Trials - by Michelle Andrews for *Kaiser Health News*, August 24](#)
- [U.S. Judge Rules Against Obama's Stem Cell Policy - by Gardiner Harris for the *New York Times*, August 23](#)
- [A lesson in health insurance for college students - by Sandra Block for *USA Today*, August 20](#)
- [Overhaul fails to boost 'health care confidence' - by Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar and Trevor Tompson for the *Associated Press*, August 18](#)
- [Some Americans May Not See New Health Care Provisions For Months - by Huma Khan for *ABC News*, August 17](#)
- [Insurer Mounts Offensive And Defensive Strategies On Health Law - by Arlene Weintraub for *Kaiser Health News*, August 16](#)

NEWS: Opinion

Click below for editorials and opinion pieces about health, health care, or health reform:

- [Poll: Public sours on health care reform as midterms loom - by Jennifer Haberkorn for](#)

[Bobby Peterson](#)

[Brynne McBride](#)

[Adam VanSpankeren](#)

ABC for Health, Inc. is a Wisconsin-based, nonprofit public interest law firm dedicated to linking children and families, particularly those with special health care needs, to health care benefits and services. ABC for Health's mission is to provide information, advocacy tools, legal services, and expert support needed to obtain, maintain, and finance health care coverage and services.



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info@safetyweb.org

If you know someone who might be interested, please [Forward this Newsletter >>](#)

[Politico](#), August 31

- [Op-Ed: As Reform Improves The Overall Market, Inefficient Insurers Could Take Hits - by Jonathan Cohn for Kaiser Health News](#), August 30
- [Blog: This Week's Health Industry News - by Reed Abelson for the New York Times](#), August 30
- [Editorial: Taking ownership \[of Mental Health Complex in Milwaukee\] - for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#), August 27
- [Op-Ed: The New Momentum Behind Electronic Health Records - by Secretary Sebelius for Kaiser Health News](#), August 26
- [Op-Ed: The First Victims of Health Care Reform - by Kate Pickert for Time](#), August 26
- [Op-Ed: The Medical Loss Ratio Raquirements Are Being Carefully Crafted - by Timothy Jost for Kaiser Health News](#), August 25
- [Op-Ed: Wrong Direction on Stem Cells - a New York Times Editorial](#), August 25
- [Op-Ed: Imaging at the doctor's: Good thing or transparent ploy? - by Phil Galewitz for USA Today](#), August 23
- [Colleges Say New Health Law May Imperil Student Policies - by Julie Appleby for Kaiser Health News](#), August 20
- [Editorial: Palliative Care - A Shifting Paradigm - by Amy S. Kelley and Diane E. Meier for the New England Journal of Medicine](#), August 19

NEWS: Health Care Costs and Access

Click the links below to read the latest news on health care costs and access:

- [Cash-Poor Governments Ditching Public Hospitals - by Suzanne Sataline for the Wall Street Journal](#), August 30
- [Nonprofit hospitals juggle earning with charity mission - by Linda Shrieves for the Washington Post](#), August 29
- [States Press Workers on Health Care - by Jeannette Neumann for the Wall Street Journal](#), August 27
- [Underinsurance among Children in the United States - for the New England Journal of Medicine](#), August 26
- [More than 3M seniors may have to switch drug plans - by Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar for the Associated Press](#), August 25
- [Medicare expands coverage of tobacco cessation - by Mike Lillis for The Hill](#), August 25
- [Underinsured Children More Prevalent Than Uninsured - by HealthDay staff writer for Modern Medicine](#), August 25
- [Millions to get new drug plans as Medicare simplifies program - by Guy Boulton for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#), August 25
- [End to COBRA subsidy means higher health insurance bills - by Andrew Villegas and Phil Galewitz for Kaiser Health News, USA Today](#), August 20
- [For the homeless, federal changes promise better access to health care - by Mary Agnes Carey and Andrew Villegas for Kaiser Health News, the Washington Post](#), August 20
- [New Plans For Uninsured Off To Slow Start - by Phil Galewitz for Kaiser Health News](#), August 19
- [Common sense saves Illinois \\$140 million in health care costs - by Shelley DuBois for CNN Money](#), August 18

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