



The HealthWatch Wisconsin Update Newsletter

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

November 1, 2010

Vol. 6 No. 20

HealthWatch Wisconsin

A Project of ABC for Health, Inc.

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

To Print:

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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](#)

*** SPECIAL "GET OUT THE VOTE" EDITION ***

Make Health Care A Priority When You Vote:



With the November midterm elections just hours away, Wisconsinites remain vehemently divided over Health Reform (Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act), but most say that their feelings - pro and con - about the health reform law are not a dominant factor in how they will vote for Governor, Congress or even whether they will go to the polls. Candidates themselves, however, have clung to health care and coverage issues when pursuing office: advertising support or opposition to BadgerCare Plus, battling over employees receiving state benefits, arguing over Family Planning provisions, and insisting on increased competition in the insurance market. Candidate for US Senate Ron Johnson (R) said he was motivated by health reform to run for Senate in the first place. Candidate for Governor Tom Barrett (D) thinks we can build on the success of our SeniorCare program to offer more services to more people.

Our View:

Please VOTE and let your voice be heard! Rising health care costs stretch the budgets of Wisconsin middle and working class families. A growing number of working Wisconsin families and single adult workers are eligible for employer-sponsored health care, but face unreasonably high deductibles and co-payments that effectively reduce their insurance to mere catastrophic coverage. Health care reform in Wisconsin presents both opportunities and threats to families with new and emerging systems and rules that are confusing and complex. Families need help to access the health coverage they need in the face of bureaucracy and new insurance rules and regulations. In response to this bleak state of affairs, Wisconsin's health care consumers need to join together to demand improvement!

In this "election edition of the Update Newsletter" we will highlight articles and resources that can educate YOU to make the most of your vote this November 2nd.

Health Reform Training a Success!

"The Changing Landscape of Health Insurance in Wisconsin after Health Reform"

Health care reform is unfolding before our eyes. The process of reform will take years, but many key questions and issues need your attention today! Last week, friends and stakeholders gathered to discuss the early implementation of health reform elements in Wisconsin, while also taking a peek at what's to come! Guests were treated to a debut of the new Health Insurance Exchange! Attendees also heard from the Commissioner of Insurance's office, the HIRSP authority, legislators, policy makers and advocacy experts. We would



Rust or (715) 485-8525 with questions.

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: Dec 6, 9:00-11:00am. **Waisman Community Outreach Center, 122 E Olin Ave, Ste 100, Madison, WI 53713.** Contact Adam VanSpankeren or (608) 261-6939, ext. 204 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: Nov 4, 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: Nov 10, 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 at 9:00am at Goodwill Community Center, 1814 N Appleton Road, Menasha. Contact Susan Garcia Franz or Connie Raether for more information.

Nominations Open for HealthWatch Wisconsin Council

especially like to thank Guenther Ruch, Rachel Currans-Sheehan, Representative Jon Richards, Josh Weisbrod, Amie Goldman, and Jon Peacock for presenting and making this conference valuable, informative, and fun! We hope that everyone learned a great deal about the many aspects of the new Health Care Reform. The sessions were very popular, as was the new HealthWatch Wisconsin publication, "My Health Reform Guidebook," now available for purchase. Each conference attendee went home with her own copy of this new publication. If you would like your own copy, contact Adam at ABC for Health.

Conference Coming Soon: Input Sought!

COMING SOON: The Fourth Annual HealthWatch Wisconsin Conference!

The very popular Fourth Annual HealthWatch Wisconsin Conference is right around the corner! The staff of HealthWatch Wisconsin, together with the HealthWatch Council have begun putting the agenda together for this two-day conference, to be held in Madison this coming February.



Register Early!

Watch your inbox! Registration materials will be mailed in the coming weeks! Registration will open December 1, 2010. As always, there is a deep discount for registered members of HealthWatch Wisconsin! Group discounts will also be available! To learn more about HealthWatch Wisconsin, call: 608-261-6939 ext. 204, or visit us online.

Learn. In addition to the latest health reform news, we will explore the future of Medicaid and programs for children with special health care needs, discuss outreach and advocacy strategies for working with Wisconsin's health care consumers, and dig into issues like appeal processes, new private health insurance rules, and health disparities. **Share.** Network with agencies, providers, academics, health care journalists, and legislators in a setting committed to assuring a more sufficient, competent & coordinated public health workforce. **Connect.** Participants will be encouraged to join a tour of the capitol over their lunch break or meet with legislators!

We Want Your Input!

Help us put workshops together that you want to see! To share your ideas, complete and return the attached "Workshop Idea" form. Watch for future announcements on the upcoming conference in the December editions of the Update Newsletter. Below, you will find a "call for nominations" for both the HealthWatch Council and for the next round of HealthWatch Awards! Both will be big items at the February Conference. We hope to see you there!

RFP Now Available!

Opportunities to Develop New HealthWatch 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:



As of November 1, 2010, the nominations period is OPEN for new members of the HealthWatch Wisconsin Council-the leadership committee of HealthWatch Wisconsin! Consider nominating a friend, co-worker, community member--or yourself! The Staff of HealthWatch Wisconsin will compile nominations and prepare a ballot for the Annual HealthWatch Wisconsin conference. At the February conference, the membership of HealthWatch Wisconsin will vote for Council members. To make your nomination, please email [Brynne](#) at ABC for Health with the name, workplace, email and phone number of an individual you'd like to see appear on the February Ballot!

What is the HealthWatch Wisconsin Council? The HealthWatch Wisconsin Council serves as the advisory committee for the HealthWatch Wisconsin organization and will help guide the project's activities toward achieving our goals. The Council will foster the strong partnerships vital to HealthWatch Wisconsin and will help guide the project's transformation of the public health system through increased access to care and coverage for people in Wisconsin.

How are Council members selected? HealthWatch Wisconsin staff solicit nominations for HealthWatch Wisconsin Council members from diverse backgrounds and public-health-oriented professions. The last opportunity to submit nominations is the Annual HealthWatch Wisconsin Conference. Conference participants and other HealthWatch Wisconsin members will cast ballots for that year's Council. The term of Council member runs 3 years. The new term for Council members will begin July 1, 2011. There are 2 meetings per year, typically in October and February. The Council is composed of no more than 15 members. The Council oversees general operations, events and sustainability of the HealthWatch Organization.

Additional Requirements of Council Members: Members of the Council must be a member of HealthWatch Wisconsin (a step required of all new Council inductees), if they are not already a member. Membership in HealthWatch Wisconsin runs from July 1 of each year through June 30. Council members would be required to be members in HealthWatch by the time

1. 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.
2. [CLICK HERE](#) FOR THE RFP. This RFP is for Coalition Building and Development. There is a fast turn-around on applications for funding as we hope to have new coalitions begin work in early 2011!
3. [CLICK HERE](#) FOR THE RFP COVER PAGE. This page must be submitted with each application.
4. We encourage anyone who is interested in competing for this grant award to **call HealthWatch Wisconsin** in advance of submitting an application to discuss ideas and strategies: Call Brynne at: (608)261-6939 ext 210.
5. Submit quickly! **Applications must be received by ABC for Health by 5 PM, December 3, 2010!**



Already part of a Coalition? No Problem! You may also apply for funding to help build and sustain your Coalition! Whether applying for a new or existing Coalition, [CLICK HERE](#) for guidance on how Coalitions will be evaluated. 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.

Article Challenges Wisconsin's Two Medical Schools

In the November Issue of Milwaukee Magazine, journalist Kurt Chandler debuted his article, "Public Be Damned: A program that was supposed to fund public health programs has become a cash cow for the state's two medical schools." Kurt, a long-time editor of the Magazine and writer of the column "Endgame," compiled interviews with the Legislative Audit Bureau, members of the Wisconsin United for Health Foundation Board, Medical Schools' Oversight and Advisory Committee members, ABC for Health, and others over the period of several weeks. The result was a gripping article that shined a spotlight on the use of Blue Cross Blue Shield Conversion funds for activities other than those intended for the public health of Wisconsin. [CLICK HERE](#) to read Kurt's article. In addition, Kurt will devote his monthly radio show "Lake Effect" to this topic on November 18 at 10:00am. [Click Here](#) for information on how to tune in on that date.



HealthWatch Wisconsin Reaction:

As followers of HealthWatch Wisconsin know, ABC for Health is concerned about the stewardship of our states medical schools over Blue Cross Blue Shield Conversion funds. The fund has increased substantially since this process began, growing from \$250 million to well over \$600 million today. "Over the years, we've raised concerns about conflicts of interest, supplanting, self dealing, and misdirection of funds," said Bobby Peterson, Director of ABC for Health. "Kurt Chandler's report echoes our past concerns, as well as those of the Audit Bureau, and asks the trustees of this fund to focus on the highest and best use of this money for the people of Wisconsin. Kurt shines a spotlight on the distribution of funds, showing that the Medical Schools are keeping 65% of a fund for themselves, designating 35% to the community, and then clawing back more of the 35%. I congratulate Kurt for investigating and reporting about vitally important public money held by our medical schools that the mainstream media has largely ignored!"

their term begins, which will be July 1, 2011. (Individual Membership fees for 2011-2012 are \$30; Organizational Membership fees for 2011-2012 are \$120). Membership entitles you to free and reduced cost publications, trainings, materials and events.

HealthWatch Wisconsin Training Site Information!

The HealthWatch Wisconsin online training portal is **NEW** and **IMPROVED!** HealthWatch Wisconsin staff have worked on the training site to accommodate a broader spectrum of users. Watch your inbox in the coming days for a "Special Edition Update Newsletter" that announces the new features on the training site, how to register, and how to view content.

HealthWatch Wisconsin members (members of the statewide organization) will have access to **all content** in the library as part of their membership in HealthWatch Wisconsin. Not a member? [Click Here](#) to Join! People not interested in joining HealthWatch Wisconsin will be able to pay for content – and pay to avoid the pre and post-testing. (Remember, part of the training site is an evaluation feature: to view a video, you first have to answer a few questions about the topic you are about to see. The quizzes are **very** short, intended to get you thinking about the training topic before it starts. Good News: The "scores" from the quizzes aren't graded! Instead, they're compiled for us, the developers, to determine where more training might be needed! Not sure if the training site is for you? Individuals will be able to take advantage of a trial subscription available to get a small preview of content available on the training site.

Remember, the Online Training Portal is **INCLUDED** in your HealthWatch Wisconsin membership! Don't fail to take advantage of these great resources bringing new training content right to your desktop. We cover a broad spectrum of topics: We invited the HIRSP authority to give us an update on the State High Risk Plan and the new Federal High Risk Plan; we dug into Katie Beckett Medicaid; and we explored the new HMO Enrollment process in Milwaukee County. Watch one of our videos or all of them, from the comfort of your home, office, or

HealthWatch Awards: Call for Nominations!

Nominate Your Health Care Hero!

HealthWatch Wisconsin is seeking nominees for the Second Annual HealthWatch Awards, to be delivered at our Fourth Annual HealthWatch Wisconsin Conference in February 2011. The HealthWatch Wisconsin Council seeks to recognize outstanding work in healthcare advocacy and service in the following categories:



- Advocate of the Year
- Legislator of the Year
- Outstanding Media Coverage Award
- Outstanding Outreach Efforts Award

Make Your Nomination Today: To nominate someone for an award, send your name and workplace, the nominee's name and workplace, and why you think the nominee deserves to be recognized, in 250 words or fewer, to [Brynne at ABC for Health](#) by Monday, December 20, 2010 at 11:59 PM. Feel free to use or share this sample [nomination form](#). To view last year's winners, [Click Here](#).

November 2nd Elections:

Wisconsin's Next Governor

"Wisconsin has a long history of electing progressive politicians, first from the Republican Party, later from the Democratic Party," according to [RealClearPolitics](#), an independent political website known for commentary, news, polling data and links, especially in election seasons! How did we get to this November's election? Historically, consider the following race analysis compiled by [RealClearPolitics](#):



- Robert LaFollette and his sons were the typical mold for a Wisconsin governor for the majority of the 20th century.
- During the Great Depression, progressives swung toward the Democrats nationally; the state Republican Party became more conservative and the state Democratic Party began to grow.
- During the mid 20th century, Wisconsin favored the famed Gaylord Nelson and Patrick Lucey.
- In the late 1900s, Wisconsin voted for the conservative politics of Tommy Thompson. The pendulum swung back in 2002 when the state elected Jim Doyle.
- Doyle was never extremely popular, and in 2010 he opted not to run for re-election. The Republicans nominated Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker, while the Democrats turned to Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett, a favorite of the Obama administration.

As we wind up the final hours of campaigning before Tuesday's vote, the [St. Norbert College/Wisconsin Public Radio Survey](#) has Scott Walker ahead of Tom Barrett by 9 percentage points. Overall, the election hasn't been cheap. Money spent on the governor's race through October 28, 2010 exceeded \$5,719,848.80. [Click here](#) to view a donation-by-donation listing, compiled on the Appleton Post-Crescent website. As you prepare to vote, consider the following healthcare-related topics both candidates would bring to Wisconsin's highest office:

Tom Barrett:

- Supports strengthening the fraud detection department in Medicaid by employing an inspector general to eliminate the \$36 million in fraud that happens annually
- Wants to improve efficiency and savings for the prescription drug program in

wherever there is an internet connection! Also included: the very popular **Immigrant Health Options Training Webcast!**

Watch your inbox later this week for your link to the Training Portal!

Now Hiring:

ABC for Health, Inc. is seeking an interested and dedicated individual to fulfill the duties of a **Legal Assistant**, responsible for providing administrative support for attorneys and Health Benefits Counselors to advocate for clients. A qualified candidate will assist in conducting intake interviews with individuals requesting assistance, primarily families with children at a risk of receiving inadequate health care to obtain and maintain health care financing through public and private sources of benefits. Familiarity with civil legal procedures and citation form and Wisconsin's health and social service programs is desired. This position includes conducting a variety of research and analysis assignments, prepare legal or administrative hearings documents, and edit/review internal publications. A strong administrative/legal support background required. Please [Click Here for the Full Position Announcement](#). ABC for Health, Inc. is an affirmative action employer. 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.

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:

SeniorCare

- Suggests providing incentives to choose affordable, low-cost health plans in order to save \$200 million from BC+
- Supports the new hospital assessment to help fund Medicaid costs
- Voted for the enforced mandate on employers to provide government regulated HMO insurance plans for health care coverage
- Continues to support BC and BC+ programs
- Will work to make sure Wisconsin has a fair share of funding to implement health reform (PPACA)
- Opposes efforts allowing pharmacists to refuse birth control prescriptions
- Supports state and federal funded birth control programs

Scott Walker:

- Wants to save on costs by removing excess and fraudulent acts within Medicaid
- Supports the federal extension waiver that allows Wisconsin to continue SeniorCare
- [Supports BadgerCare](#), but promotes moving people off public assistance by creating stricter income limits to make it more difficult to qualify for BC+
- Applauds the Milwaukee County Family Care program
- Supports increasing the hospital tax to help with funding for Medicaid
- Seeks to join the lawsuit against health reform regarding the ban on pre-existing conditions and inclusion of federally funded health care for early retirees, their spouses, and dependents, believing it should be left up to the county to decide
- Defends a pharmacist's moral right to refuse emergency contraception prescriptions
- Supports raising the minimum age of the Family Planning Program from 15 to 18

Race to the House and Senate:

Fight for the House

All 435 House seats are filled by elections every two years. (That contrasts with the Senate's overlapping six-year terms, where about a third of the 100 seats are up for election every two years.) Coming into this election, Democrats hold a commanding margin of 255 House seats to 178 for the Republicans, with two vacancies. Republicans

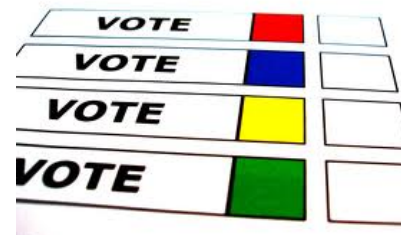
must pick up 39 seats to take control. In Wisconsin, eight house seats are up for election, three of which are currently occupied by Republicans, and five of which are occupied by Democrats. Out of these eight districts we see similar viewpoints from both sides: Each candidate supports health care coverage for everyone, while maintaining affordable, quality coverage and availability. The candidates also want to focus on eliminating fraud within the Medicaid and Medicare system so that the citizens' tax dollars can be spent wisely.

The differences between the candidates, however, is that some support universal, government-run healthcare coverage, whereas other candidates support "dissolving the insurance barriers" across state lines to "increase market competition" so that the individual or family can purchase healthcare that is not regulated or mandated by our government. Where does each of the candidates stand exactly? Explore their websites, read about the issues, and vote for the change you want to see:

District 1: [John Heckenlively](#) (D) vs [Paul Ryan](#) (R)

District 2: [Tammy Baldwin](#) (D) vs [Chad Lee](#) (R)

District 3: [Dan Kapanke](#) (R) vs [Ron Kind](#) (D)



- 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.

Links of Interest

The Legislative Council Study Committees will continue to meet in the coming months. We will be tracking the meeting agendas and minutes at the Update. Check in here from time to time to see when the next meeting is, and what is developing.

Interim Study Committee on Health Reform Implementation
Next Meeting: November 9

Interim Study Committee on Access to Health Care
Next Meeting: November 22

Interim Study Committee on Infant Mortality
Next Meeting: November 16

Special Committee on Review of Emergency Detention and Admission of Minors Under Chapter 51
Next Meeting: November 15

NEW from Kaiser! Health Reform: An Overview - Health Policy Education from Kaiser Family Foundation. Check out this very informative video and 18-slide PowerPoint [here](#).

Trends in the Prevalence of Autism on the Basis of Special Education Data:
Released October 25 by Matthew Maenner and Maureen Durkin for

District 4: [Gwen Moore](#) (D) vs [Dan Sebring](#) (R)

District 5: [Todd Kolosso](#) (D) vs [Jim Sensenbrenner](#) (R)

District 6: [Josef Kallas](#) (D) vs [Tom Petri](#) (R)

District 7: [Sean Duffy](#) (R) vs [Julie Lassa](#) (D)

District 8: [Steve Kagen](#) (D) vs [Reid Ribble](#) (R)



Race for the Senate

While the primary responsibility of the Senate is to slow down legislative processes with hearings and debates of "advice and consent," the race for party control in the Senate begins. In order to gain full control of the Senate, Democrats will need to have six officials elected. Republicans, on the other hand, will only need to swing two democratic seats in Washington. Recent polls indicate that Wisconsin manufacturer Ron Johnson (R) is leading over democratic challenger and current Senator Russ Feingold (D) by 6 percent of the popular vote. Which candidate is the healthy choice?

Russ Feingold (D):

- Wisconsin's current senator and co-sponsor of the Pharmaceutical Market Access and Drug Safety Act, a law that proposes overseas pharmaceutical imports to the U.S. to encourage better affordability
- Supports the ban on insurance companies discontinuing or denying coverage because of illness or economic status
- Believes in enhancing low-income benefit programs like BC and BC+, including Medicare access to rural areas

Ron Johnson (R):

- Motivated by health reform to run for Senate and dedicated to repealing the health care reform law to allow for insurance portability, reduced mandates and increased competition across state lines
- Supports the provision banning insurance providers from denying coverage based on a pre-existing condition
- Supports strengthening fraud detection in Medicare and Medicaid

Helpful Voter Information:

One Stop for Voter Information:

For information on elections and voting unique to you, visit Wisconsin's Government Accountability Board - Elections Division via the [State of Wisconsin Voter Public Access](#) website. It gives Wisconsin voters one-stop access to information about exercising their right to vote. On this site:

1. [Look up your voter registration and polling place location:](#) Look up your voter record to check your voter status and to check the polling place location, voting history, absentee ballot status and sample ballot (for a recent or upcoming election)
2. [Look up polling place location for an address:](#) Look up the polling place location and view a **sample ballot** (for a recent or upcoming election) for anyone who lives at a specific address (anonymous search)
3. [Check Provisional Vote Status:](#) Check on the status for a Provisional Vote that you recently cast in an election. Provisional vote status may not be immediately available.
4. [Military/Overseas Voters - Check Absentee Ballot](#)

This is your sample ballot for the following election:
11/2/2010 - 2010 GENERAL ELECTION

Sample Ballot NP-4

Pediatrics, this is a study on autism that determines whether the increasing prevalence of autism in Wisconsin between 2002 and 2008 was uniform in all school districts or was greatest in districts with lower baseline (2002) prevalence.

The Actual Prevalence of Autism: Are We There Yet?: Released October 25 by John Harrington for *Pediatrics*, the article expresses the importance of making sure population-based prevalence rates for ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder) are matching school-based rates, which should account for about one percent of the population.

More from *Kaiser Health News*: Friday, October 29

- [Health Reform Roundtables: Coordinating Coverage and Care in Medicaid and Health Insurances Exchanges](#)
- [October Update on Health Disparities](#)
- [Optimizing Medicaid Enrollment: Spotlight on Technology - Wisconsin's ACCESS Internet Portal](#)
- [New Webcasts on Health Reform: Global Health](#)
- [Statehealthfacts.org Updates Data on Health Coverage, People in Poverty, Medicaid Enrollment, HIV/AIDS Funding, Medicaid Budget Actions, Health Care Employment, and More](#)

Updates from DHS

DHS has released updated versions of its BadgerCare Plus and Access Handbooks!

Here is a link to the [BadgerCare Plus Handbook](#) version 10-04; and to the listed [changes](#), effective October 1. Please click here to see the [Access Handbook](#) version 10-05; and its listed [changes](#), effective November 8.

Operations Memos

[Ops Memo 10-76](#) Changes to the Family Planning Waiver Program (*released October 28*)

New Policy: This memo announces the change of the Family Planning Waiver

Status: Military and Overseas voters can check the status of an absentee ballot issued or returned for a recent or upcoming election.

Please visit The [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel's 2010 Fall Election Page](#) and the links below for more up-to-date information on the issues, candidates and where to vote.

- [Wisconsin Public Radio](#)
- [Real Clear Politics](#)
- [Rasmussen Reports](#)
- [Election 2010 FactFinder](#)
- [City of Milwaukee Elections](#)
- [City of Madison Elections](#)
- [DC Wraps: WiscPolitics](#)
- [League of Women Voters/Vote 411](#)
- [Town Hall Challenge](#)
- [Wispolitics.com](#)

Health Reform: Consumer Assistance Grants Awarded!

New Consumer Assistance Program grants will help make sure that consumers receive their new rights and benefits under the Affordable Care Act by providing nearly \$30 million in new resources to help States and Territories. These new grants will help strengthen and enhance ongoing efforts in the States and local communities to protect consumers from some of the worst insurance industry practices. For a full listing of awardees, [click here](#).

Wisconsin's Office of the Commissioner of Insurance was awarded \$637,114 to:

- Upgrade and enhance data systems, including consumer inquiry complaint and referral tracing systems, web-based intake forms, and data reporting and analysis systems.
- Develop greater ability to conduct sophisticated analysis of complaints, grievances, appeals, and external review reports.
- Develop and upgrade consumer assistance publications, including translation when appropriate, and increase community outreach and public relations activities.
- Contract with ABC for Health to accept referrals for consumers for advocacy or advising needs beyond what the Office of Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight can provide.

New Web Cast Explains Enhancements to ACCESS:

A new web cast, filmed October 26 and archived by Wisconsin's Department of Health Services, shows upcoming enhancements to [ACCESS.wi.gov](#). The new features will allow members and partners to scan and upload verification documents and send them to their caseworker - at time of application, for reviews and for changes. In addition, a new document tracking sheet will be debuted - intended to help members when submitting documents in various formats. These enhancements will be going into effect **Monday, Nov. 8th, 2010**. You can [CLICK HERE](#) to view the webcast.



Sample Ballot NP-4

Governor/Lieutenant Governor
 TOM BARRETT/TOM NELSON (Democratic)
 SCOTT WALKER/REBECCA KLEEFISCH (Republican)
 No Candidate/TERRY VIRGIL (Libertarian)
 JAMES JAMES/No Candidate (Common Sense)
 JIM LANGER/No Candidate (Independent)

Attorney General
 SCOTT HASSETT (Democratic)
 J.B. VAN HOLLEN (Republican)

Secretary of State
 DOUG LA FOLLETTE (Democratic)
 DAVID D. KING (Republican)

State Treasurer
 DAWN MARIE SASS (Democratic)
 KURT W. SCHULLER (Republican)

(FPW) Program to the Family Planning Only Services (FPOS) state plan benefit. Policy changes to the FPOS will be in effect November 1. The income limit for FPOS will be 300% of the FPL, and there will no longer be an upper age limit for eligibility. Applicants will also be able to request backdated benefits for up to three months prior to the month of application.

[Ops Memo 10-75](#) Amendment to Citizenship and Identity Auto Update in CARES (released October 25)

New Policy: Effective November 8 (amended from November 1), the state will submit a file to the SSA with an individual's name, social security number and date of birth to verify citizenship, as opposed to the current process, which requires the applicant to submit the verification to the local agency or to verify using available resources such as birth query or a DMV match. The new verification requirements apply to Medicaid and BadgerCare Plus applicants. Verified citizenship returned from the SSA will also meet the requirements for the FoodShare, Caretaker Supplement, Child Care and W-2 programs.

[Ops Memo 10-59](#) Amendment to Verification Notice Redesign (released October 25)

New Policy: This amendment changes the effective date to November 8.

[Ops Memo 10-39](#) Amendment to Birth Certificates for Puerto Rican Individuals (released October 18)

New Policy: The Puerto Rican government extended the time in which Puerto Rican birth certificates issued prior to July 1, 2010 are considered valid. There is now a four-month window to apply for and receive their new birth certificate during which time their current birth certificate will be valid.

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

Health Reform: Expansions to Family Planning Waiver

Changes are being made to the Family Planning Waiver. Operations Memo [10-76](#); "Changes to the Family Planning Waiver Program" as well as a [Fact Sheet](#) outline the changes now possible, thanks to specific sections in the health reform law signed by President Obama on March 23. Currently, Wisconsin covers Family Planning services for 54,000 non-pregnant women and men ages 15-44 up to 200% of the federal poverty level. Health Reform (PPACA) allows states to expand Family Planning services for Non-pregnant women and men up to 300% FPL and above ages 44; makes eligibility easier; and makes coverage permanent. Wisconsin was one of first states to apply for federal money to make these program expansions. Beginning November 1, 2010:

- New Name: Family Planning Only Services
- New Income Limit: 300% FPL
- New Upper Age: Ages 15 (no change) and older (no upper age limit)
- New Time Period for Temporary Eligibility: will extend from the application date through the last day of the following calendar month--the time period for Temporary Eligibility has been shortened. (For example, if someone applies for Family Planning Only Services, temporary eligibility on November 16, their coverage would run through December 31.)
- The retroactive period is being phased-in, and backdated coverage will not be available prior to 11/1. For example, if someone applies in December, s/he could only get one month of retroactive coverage. In January, retroactive coverage can be granted for up to two months.



Wrongful Denials November 1-8:

The transition from Family Planning Waiver to Family Planning Only Services will occur on Monday, November 1. However, [ACCESS.wi.gov](#) will not be ready with the program changes until Monday, November 8.

How to apply during the week of November 1: Applications or renewals from clients who have incomes between 200% and 300% FPL or are older than age 44, will initially be denied Family Planning Only Services through ACCESS and will receive a denial letter. Once the new systems are online on November 8, all application/renewal denials for the week of November 1 will be reviewed, and the Department will follow-up with an enrollment letter for those who meet all the new Family Planning Only Services program rules.

Suggestion: Use paper applications: During this week, the Department of Health Services encourages patients to complete a paper application/renewal or delay his/her application until November 8. Since Family Planning Only Services members will receive coverage back to the beginning of the month when they apply, the delay will not affect his/her coverage.

Update: Clarifying Community Health Center Awards!

Update to a Story Previously Reported on in the Update Newsletter:

In the September 15 edition of the Update Newsletter, we brought you an article called "Health Reform: A Closer Look at Support for Community Health Centers." In the October 15 Edition of the Update, we shared the Obama administration's [announcement](#) of awarding \$727 million to community health centers. The editors of the HealthWatch Update newsletter wanted to clarify which Health Centers will benefit from the most recent award through the Affordable Care Act. (The listing of Wisconsin Community Health Centers in the October 15 Update followed money distributed through the Recovery Act: [Click Here](#) to see that listing.) According to a

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 \(Core Plan is Ch. 43\)](#)

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:
dhsmls@wisconsin.gov - for new applications, verifications, etc.
dhsmlschanges@wisconsin.gov - for scanning changes (HTF only scanning changes from cases)
dhsmlscustomerservice@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](#)

press release issued by the US Department of Health and Human Services, two health centers in Wisconsin: the Sixteenth Street Community Health Center in Milwaukee (\$2,625,615.00) and the Kenosha Community Health Center (\$2,851,204.00) will receive funding through the Affordable Care Act. [Click Here](#) to see the news release. Thank you to careful readers of the Update for helping us clarify the two recent awards to Community Health Centers!

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 Dane County HealthWatch Coalition will be doing a Food Drive at its next meeting, December 6, the beneficiary of which is to be determined. For future meetings, Dane County HealthWatch hopes to invite someone from the Enrollment Services Center or Aging Services or Disability Rights or Respite Care Centers. Today, Dane County HealthWatch had its first meeting at a new location - the Waisman Community Outreach Center at 122 E Olin Avenue. This will also be the location of December's meeting, and likely for all meetings going into 2011. Claire Smith from the Department of Health Services came to speak to Dane County HealthWatch to introduce the new changes to Access and the Family Planning Waiver (now Family Planning Only Services, see separate article for a more comprehensive look at the changes, effective November 1). The corresponding changes to Access will take effect next Monday, November 8, and will include a new verification checklist, new scanning capabilities that allow faxes to be scanned right into an individual's case, and a new document tracking sheet, which should make following a case after it goes to the ESC or the County much easier. Please view Claire Smith's training on the new verification submission enhancements [here](#). Also helpful to understand the Access program in general, as well as the new changes, is the Access Training Site, which can be found at <https://trn.access.wisconsin.gov>. For more information on these changes, please keep an eye to future editions of the HWW Update. Please stay tuned for minutes and more updates from today's meeting - to be released sooner than usual, as follow up on some of the hanging questions is completed. For questions or more information, contact [Adam VanSpankeren](#).

The Tri County HealthWatch Coalition had a pretty decent presence at ABC's Health Reform Training on Thursday. Tri County HealthWatch would like to get a live training going in the Fox Valley area, though it still has to be decided on what topic. If you're interested in a particular topic or would like to attend a training in that area, please contact [Susan Garcia Franz](#).

Likewise, some members of the **Polk County HealthWatch Coalition** turned out for the Health Reform Training in Madison. The Polk County Coalition is currently in the middle of a reorganizing process aimed at centering more of the coalition's work around a Polk County Free Clinic that is currently being planned by the county's three medical centers, the Salvation Army, the Polk County Health Department, and ABC for Rural Health. The free clinic planning activities are being supported by a Rural Communities grant from the Wisconsin Office for Rural Health and by a grant from the Medical Foundation. For more information or questions, contact [Mike Rust](#).

CASE TIP: Changes to Verifying Citizenship and Identity

The process for verifying citizenship and identity for Medicaid and BadgerCare Plus applicants has changed - for the better! The change also impacts how FoodShare, Caretaker Supplement, Child Care and Wisconsin Works (W-2) verifications are processed. The Department of Health Services issued an Operations Memo to help explain the new procedures on October 14, 2010 (amended on October 25), called "[Ops Memos 10-75](#) Citizenship and Identity Auto Update in CARES." The effective dates for the new procedures, originally dated as November 1, 2010 has been changed to November 8, 2010.

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 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.



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

Why Does Citizenship or Identity Need to Be Verified? Federal law requires individuals declaring to be US citizens or nationals to verify their US citizenship and identity in order to receive, or continue to receive, Medicaid and BadgerCare Plus.

Old Process for Verifying: The current process for verifying citizenship and identity requires the applicant/member to submit the verification to the local agency, or requires the worker to verify using available resources such as birth query, DMV match, etc.

New Process for Verifying: Effective January 1, 2010, the Social Security Act was amended to provide a new option for documenting the citizenship and identity of applicants declaring to be US citizens or nationals. This option allows states to use a "data match" with Social Security to meet the citizenship and identity verification requirements for these programs. Wisconsin has opted to use the existing State Verification and Exchange System (SVES), used to verify SSN, name and date of birth to Verify citizenship and identity for Medicaid and BCP applicants and members. Under the new process, the state will submit a file to SSA with the person's name, verified SSN and date of birth for comparison to SSA's data. If SSA is able to match the individual to its files and verify the declaration of citizenship, no further verification is required. **Please Note:** SeniorCare and BadgerCare Plus Basic Plan applicant will not be included in this process.

CKSN Corner
Covering Kids with Special Needs



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

- **New Family Voices Training on Transition - November 1.** 5:00-8:00pm. Gateway Tech College, Elkhorn. Hosted by Family Voices of Wisconsin, the event is free and dinner will be provided. To register, call 608-220-9598 or email Lynn at lynn@fvofwi.org.
- **"Did You Know? Now You Know!" - November 4.** 5:30-8:30pm. Marshfield Public Library, Marshfield, WI. **November 13 & 20.** 5:30-8:30pm. Milwaukee--will be help in Spanish. Family Voice training on health care and community services. For more details go to www.fvofwi.org/training.
- **Children Come First Conference - See My World: New Perspectives on Children's Mental Health - November 7-9.** 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.
- **Self-Advocacy Leadership Summit - November 8.** 10:00am-3:00pm. Kalahari Resort, Wisconsin Dells. This statewide leadership Summit is designed to have several of the self-advocacy organizations and leaders in the self-advocacy movement get together and talk about the future of self-advocacy in Wisconsin. Free, registration required: call John Shaw at 608-266-7707 or e-mail john1.shaw@wisconsin.gov by October 23.
- **21st Annual Children Come First Conference. November 8 & 9.**

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

[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.



(608)261-6939
info@safetyweb.org

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

Kalahari Resort, Wisconsin Dells. Child and adolescent behavioral health conference. For more information and registration, go to www.wifamilyties.org.

- **Third Annual Statewide Self-Determination Conference - November 8-10.** Kalahari Resort, Wisconsin Dells. Focus will be the need to strengthen self-determination so that people are in control of their supports and lives. For more information go to www.wi-bpdd.org and click on "SD Conference."
- **2010 Mental Health Consumer Conference - "Mental Health Reform: Advocating for Our Future" - November 22 and 23.** Kalahari Resort and Convention Center, Wisconsin Dells, WI.
- **"Did You Know? Now You Know!" - December 7.** 5:30-8:30pm. Green Mill Restaurant, 2703 Craig Road, Eau Claire, WI. Training on health care and community supports for children and youth with special health care needs and/or disabilities. The training is free and dinner will be provided. To register, call Wynne or Rose at the Western Regional Center, Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs at 800-400-3678 or 715-726-7908, or email Wynne at WCook@co.chippewa.wi.us.
- **Circles of Life 2011 - April 28 & 29.** Hyatt Regency, Milwaukee. State's largest conference for families of children with disabilities and special health care needs. For more information visit www.colwisconsin.org.

CYSHCN Grants Awarded

The Department of Health Services, Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Program has announced that the agencies listed below have been awarded grants in response to the Request for Proposals for CYSHCN Statewide Initiatives. Congratulations to the following agencies and offices:
 1. Family Voices of Wisconsin, Family Health Leadership Initiative
 2. Children's Hospital of Wisconsin Fox Valley, Medical Home Initiative
 3. ABC for Health, Inc, Access/Health Benefits Initiative

Sharon Fleischfresser, MD, MPH, Medical Director, Wisconsin CYSHCN Program Division of Public Health, commented when announcing the accepted proposals, "We look forward to working together to serve Wisconsin's children and youth with special health care needs and their families." Contracts for the initiatives will begin January 1, 2011.

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](#); [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: **Special Election Edition - Note a number of articles written before October 15 have been retrieved to give a picture of candidates and their positions!**

- [County panel backs new mental facility - by Steve Schultze for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, October 26](#)
- [Meriter expansions signal shift away from UW Health - by David Wahlberg for](#)

- [the Wisconsin State Journal, October 26](#)
- [Group Selected to Govern Wisconsin's Health IT Network - by Beth Kaplan for the State of Wisconsin Department of Health Services, October 25](#)
 - [Health Care: Ensuring Access to Good Treatment - for Feingold Senate Committee, retrieved October 25](#)
 - [U.S. Senate: Ron Johnson on the Issues - for the *Post Crescent*, October 25](#)
 - [DC Wrap: 8th candidates talk health care, Social Security on 'UpFront' - for WisPolitics, October 25](#)
 - [Personal data not released, state says - by Don Walker for the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, October 25](#)
 - [Audit finds violent events grew in last five years at mental health facility - by Steve Schultze and Meg Kissinger for the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, October 25](#)
 - [Know your Madisonian: An advocate for those mired in a health insurance maze - by David Wahlberg for *The Wisconsin State Journal*, October 21](#)
 - [BadgerCare helps Johnson's company, other firms - for WKOW, October 21](#)
 - [New psychiatric hospital to open in Madison for day treatments - by Doug Erickson for *The Wisconsin State Journal*, October 21](#)
 - [Press Release: Gov. Doyle Announces \\$637,000 grant to create consumer assistance program for residents - by Laura Smith for the Office of the Governor, October 19](#)
 - [Medicaid among Wisconsin's Fastest Rising Costs - by J. Stein for the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, retrieved October 18](#)
 - [2010 Fall Election - for the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, October 18](#)
 - [What does Scott Walker want to do with BadgerCare - by Jessica Arp for *FactFinder.com*, retrieved October 18](#)
 - [Politifact Wisconsin Truth-o-Meter: "Planned Parenthood says Scott Walker tried to pass bill to allow pharmacists block women's access to birth control - for the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, October 15](#)
 - [Wisconsin GOP lieutenant governor candidate Rebecca Sleefisch praises, criticizes state health care - by Scott Bauer for the *Associated Press*, October 14](#)
 - [Abortion, birth control are wedge issues in governor's race - by Patrick Marley and Lee Bergquist for the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, October 2](#)

NEWS: Health Care Reform

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

- [Republicans offer few healthcare alternatives - by Noam Levey for the *LA Times*, October 27](#)
- [Former HHS chief predicts series of 'disruptions' to health reform law - by Mike Lillis for *The Hill*, October 27](#)
- [Debate Over Health Reform Soon To Change Gears, Expert Predicts - by Jim McLean for Kaiser Health News, October 27](#)
- [Administration: No regrets pushing health reform before climate - by Darren Goode for *The Hill*, October 27](#)
- [Health Care Vote Puts Democrats on Defensive - by Kevin Sack for *The New York Times*, October 26](#)
- [Conflict over health benefits brochure - by Sarah Kliff for Politico, October 26](#)
- [Report: Administration weighing changes to 'grandfathering' rule for health plans - by Julian Pecquet for *The Hill*, October 25](#)
- [Health Care Overhaul Depends on States' Insurance Exchanges - by Robert Pear for *The New York Times*, October 23](#)
- [AP-GfK Poll: Americans split on health care repeal - for the Associated Press, October 22](#)
- [States Affirm Tough Limits on Insurers' Use of Dollars - by Robert Pear for *The New York Times*, October 21](#)
- [State Regulators Recommend New Health Insurance Rules - by Julie Appleby for Kaiser Health News, October 21](#)
- [Health Care Law's Opponents Steer Education Efforts - by Julie Rovner for NPR, October 20](#)
- [Ruling on Health Law Is Due by End of Year - by Kevin Sack for *The New York Times*, October 18](#)

NEWS: Opinion

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

- [Column: What If The President Had Changed His Priorities? A Pre-Election Analysis From An Alternate Universe - by Johnathan Cohn for Kaiser Health News, October 28](#)
- [Blog: Informed Patients Get Better Care - by Martin Kohn for *The Huffington Post*, October 28](#)
- [Blog: What would the 2010 election look like without health-care reform? - by Ezra Klein for *The Washington Post*, October 28](#)
- [Editorial: The Courts and the Mandate - for *The New York Times*, October 27](#)
- [Blog: Why we needed health-care reform, in one graph - by Ezra Klein and Aaron Carroll for *The Washington Post*, October 27](#)
- [Column: The price problem that health-care reform failed to cure - by Alec MacGillis for *The Washington Post*, October 24](#)
- [Blog: If You Don't Get The New Health Care Law, At Least You Can Laugh About It - by Julie Rovner for NPR, October 21](#)
- [Editorial: Thorny issue of health insurance exchange awaits next governor - by Guy Boulton for the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, October 19](#)
- [Column: With all eyes on the 'market,' health reform overlooked human rights - by Anja Rudiger for the *Huffington Post*, October 15](#)

NEWS: Health Care Costs and Access

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

- [Doctor-owned hospitals race to beat Medicare deadline - by Christopher Weaver for Kaiser Health News, October 28](#)
- [Health Law Hardly At Fault For Rising Premiums - by Julie Rovner for NPR, October 28](#)
- [Health Care Reform Calls for Shared Savings Programs - by Sheri Porter for](#)

AAFP, October 27

- Physician Panel Prescribes the Fees Paid by Medicare - by Anna Wilde Mathews and Tom McGinty for *The Wall Street Journal*, October 26
- High Risk Pools For People With Medical Issues Start Slowly - by Michelle Andrews for Kaiser Health News, October 26
- Push for better ways to share e-health records - by Luran Neergaard for the Associated Press, October 25
- Employers looking at health insurance options - for the Associated Press, October 24
- Health insurers help GOP after dalliance with Dems - for the Associated Press, October 23
- Briggs contract boosts pay, but health insurance costs grow - by Rick Rornell for the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, October 22

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