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The UW Population Health Institute's E-News is delivered monthly. Check our web site for additional information and updates: <http://www.pophealth.wisc.edu/uwphi/news.htm>. To subscribe or unsubscribe, reply to [Colleen Comeau](mailto:Colleen.Comeau@wisc.edu) with the word "subscribe" or "unsubscribe" in the subject line.

Information for E-news is compiled from several sources, including websites and lists from the *Wheeler Report*, Wisconsin Council on Children and Families, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Kaiser Family Foundation, Commonwealth Fund, *Milbank Quarterly*, *Health Affairs*, Urban Institute, *Wisconsin Medical Journal*, Wispolitics.com, Blue Cross/Blue Shield, *The New York Times*, *Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel*, *Milwaukee Business Journal*, *Wisconsin State Journal*, Wisconsin Technology Network and others.

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STATE NEWS

State Releases 10-Year Health Plan: Healthiest Wisconsin 2020

The state's latest 10-year health plan, "Healthiest Wisconsin 2020, Everyone Living Better, Longer," is now available. The plan stresses the need to eliminate disparities in health outcomes like infant mortality, provide fair access to conditions needed for good health, and emphasize lifelong prevention to achieve the highest quality of life at every age. A [press release issued by Senator Glenn Grothman](#) (R-West Bend) calls upon the State Legislature to reject Healthiest Wisconsin 2020: "This politically correct 248-page document calls for a massive expansion of government involvement in public transportation, universal preschool, reducing carbon emissions, as well as involving the government in your food choices."

Federal High Risk Pool Accepts Applications July 15, August 1 Effective Date

Wisconsin began taking applications for the Federal Health Insurance Risk Sharing Plan (Federal HIRSP) on July 15, 2010 with an August 1 effective date. Administered through the existing Wisconsin HIRSP authority, the Federal HIRSP plan has different eligibility and application requirements from the existing State HIRSP plan. To qualify for the Federal Pool, a person must: 1) Be a citizen or national of the United States, or be lawfully present; 2) Have a preexisting medical condition; and 3) Been uninsured for at least 6 months before applying for the HIRSP Federal Plan.

Patient Compensation Fund \$200M Transfer Overturned

Wisconsin Supreme Court found unconstitutional the transfer of \$200 million from Wisconsin's Injured Patients and Families Compensation Fund (IPFCF) to the Medical Assistance Trust Fund. The [Wisconsin Medical Society filed suit](#) in October 2007 following enactment of legislation that took the \$200 million from the Fund to help balance the state's budget. The state will now have to return the funds to the IPFCF.

State facing potential \$850 Medicaid shortfall; U.S. Senate Approves Relief (FMAP)

Wisconsin's Medicaid program, Secretary Timberlake last month announced, was facing a potential shortfall of as much as \$850 million in state and federal money, with the state's share about \$300 million. Last week, the U.S. Senate last week approved an increase in the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) that will help resolve this shortfall. Doyle Administration officials estimate that enactment of the bill would yield \$185 million in Medicaid savings for Wisconsin. A [paper](#) released by The WI Council on Children and Families WCCF examines the impact of the enhanced Medicaid Reimbursement rate in Wisconsin.

National Article Examines Wisconsin's MA Rate Reform

Stateline.org contained an article on August 5 titled How Wisconsin made large Medicaid cuts with relatively little controversy in the previous cycle. It describes the process for coming up with \$625 million of savings in the current biennial budget. The article, however, does discuss the new shortfalls and cuts that Wisconsin is now undertaking.

[Medical Core Plan Waitlist ByPass for Cancer Diagnosis](#)

DHS has institute a new policy, that any person who is enrolled in the BadgerCare Plus Basic Plan and is confirmed by a physician to have a diagnosis of any cancer type, excluding non-melanoma skin cancers, will not be subject to the Core Plan enrollment cap. These individuals are eligible to be removed from the waitlist and apply directly for the Core Plan.

[HHS Announces Pilot Program to get Kids Insured](#)

As part of the [Connecting Kids](#) to Coverage effort, HHS is launching the [Get Covered. Get in the Game.](#) initiative in seven pilot states across the country - Colorado, Florida, Maryland, New York, Oregon, Ohio and [Wisconsin](#).

[Family Care Program Audit Underway](#)

The Legislature's Joint Audit Committee approved an audit of Family Care, a program intended to help more elderly people and those with physical and developmental disabilities to stay in their homes instead of moving into nursing facilities.

[Gallup Survey Ranks WI 4th in Health Insurance](#)

According to survey data recently released by Gallup, only 3 other states had a lower percentage of uninsured adults than Wisconsin during the first 6 months of 2010.

[Wisconsin's QuadMed Featured in National report on Worksite Health](#)

[QuadMed](#), is a Wisconsin-based subsidiary of printer Quad/Graphics that develops and manages worksite health clinics and wellness programs. It is featured in a new case study series from The Commonwealth Fund detailing how three diverse organizations are transforming how they deliver care in pursuit of the Triple Aim. The Institute for Healthcare Improvement's Triple Aim initiative seeks to help health care organizations achieve three key objectives simultaneously: improve the health of a patient population, enhance patients' experience of care—including quality, access, and reliability—and reduce, or at least control, the per capita cost of care.

[Evaluation Released of Ask Me 3 Program to Engage Patients](#)

DHS and WCHQ released a report on the Ask Me 3™ pilot program that tested the effectiveness of an education program designed to improve patient-provider communication, help patients understand health instructions and engage patients in their own health care.

[WI Receives \\$1.16M Grant to Expand & Improve Home Visiting Services](#)

A new \$1.16 million grant through the Affordable Care Act will be used to expand and improve the quality of home visiting services in at-risk communities. The new funding will help local communities improve maternal and newborn health, school readiness, and community resource coordination, and reduce child maltreatment and injuries, and domestic violence.

[Report: Falls are Now the Most Common Cause of Injury-Related Deaths in WI](#)

State health officials today reported that deaths from falls have surpassed both motor vehicle crashes and suicide as the most common cause of injury related deaths in Wisconsin. According to the new report, The Burden of Falls in Wisconsin, unintentional falls caused 918 deaths compared to 581 deaths caused by motor vehicle crashes.

Youth Smoking Drops in Wisconsin

Smoking rates have fallen 15% among high school students and 9% among middle school students since 2008, according to the 2010 Wisconsin Youth Tobacco Survey. The survey, conducted bi-annually by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services and the Department of Public Instruction, included 43 high schools and 45 middle schools.

UWM Agrees to Put School of Public Health at Pabst Site

A building at the former Pabst brewery will be remodeled to house University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's new School of Public Health, under a preliminary agreement announced on August 2nd by UWM.

State's Health Care Start-ups Raised \$50 Million through Midyear

Wisconsin-based health care start-ups raised \$50 million of venture capital in the first half of the year, the third-highest amount of any Midwestern state, according to the BioEnterprise Midwest Health Care Venture Investment Report.

HHS Awards WI \$2 Million to Support Health Care Workforce Training

Funds will support programs to train nurses, geriatric specialists and improve the performance and recruitment of underrepresented minority students.

Nearly 3 out of 10 WI Adults are Obese

According to the CDC report, report, titled "State-Specific Obesity Prevalence Among Adults – United States, 2009," "The number of Wisconsin residents who are obese has reached a new high." Wisconsin's obesity rate is 29 percent. That's in addition to the 36 percent of Wisconsin adults who are overweight, but not to the extent of being obese.

Dane County Investigating Fluctuation in Black Infant Mortality

Dane County's black infant mortality rate dropped last year to 12 per 1000 live births, after a spike up in 2008 to 20 per 1000 live births, following years of declines. Last year's rate, however, still exceeds the 6 per 1000 in the years 2002-2007 that received national attention. The health department, along with UW scientists and others, will now be investigating every infant death, the health department plans to expand home visits to pregnant women.

Critics Challenge Medical Schools' Use of Public Health Endowment

Following the release of the [Legislative Fiscal Bureau audit](#), [Milwaukee Magazine](#) reports how three public interest groups are taking issue with the way Milwaukee's Medical College of Wisconsin and Madison's UW School of Medicine and Public Health are using \$630 million they received by court order when the Blue Cross Blue Shield United of Wisconsin insurance company converted from non-profit to for-profit status.

Study: State Ranks 18th in Beach Quality

A new study of the nation's beaches by the Natural Resources Defense Council said that 8% of samples taken on Wisconsin beaches in 2009 exceeded national standards.

RESEARCH AND PROGRAM TOOLS

Meaningful Use of HIT: Definition Released in Final Rule CMS

[Full text of the rule.](#)

HHS Launches Health Care Website for Consumers: <http://www.healthcare.gov/>

New and Updated Resources from the [Commonwealth Fund](#)

- [Measuring the U.S. Health Care System: A Cross-National Comparison](#)

CMS Releases Data on Hospital Outpatient Care

The public can now review data on the quality of outpatient care provided by individual hospitals at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' Hospital Compare website. The site previously contained only data on inpatient care quality. All the data are derived from records of Medicare patients treated at more than 3,600 hospitals nationwide.

New and Updated Resources from the [Kaiser Family Foundation](#)

- [Explaining Health Reform: Questions about the Temporary High Risk Pool](#)
- [Medicaid Expansion Under Health Reform](#)
- [State Medicaid Agencies Prepare for Health Care Reform During Recession](#)
- [Medicare Enrollment](#)
- [Emergency Contraception Factsheet](#)
- [Updated Health Reform Subsidy Calculator](#)
- [Health Reform and Medicare Tutorial](#)
- [Explaining Health Reform: Benefits and Cost-Sharing for Adult Medicaid Beneficiaries](#)
- [Optimizing Medicaid Enrollment: Spotlight on Technology](#)

EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Training Tobacco Scientists (TTS) Grant Opportunity

Applications due Sept 13

2010 WI Primary Care Research & Quality Improvement Forum

September 16-17, Hilton Garden Inn, Middleton, WI

Community-Academic Partnership Fund Grant Opportunity

Application due Oct 1

2ND Annual Innovations in Women's Health

October 15-16, Monona Terrace, Madison, WI

UW Carbone Cancer Center's 9th Annual Fall Cancer Conference

October 22, Monona Terrace, Madison, WI, Fee \$35

Day of Workshops: The Changing Landscape of Insurance after National Health Reform

October 28, 9am-4:30pm, Inn on the Park, Madison, WI

Care in the Community Conference

September 22, Radisson Hotel, Wauwatosa, WI

Midwest Autism Conference

October 10-12, La Crosse Center, La Cross, WI

5th Biennial Neuroscience Research Symposium

August 30, 7:30 am-4:30 pm, 5445 East Cheryl Parkway, Madison, WI

Global Health Seminar Series: “Global Child Health: Training to Make a Difference”

September 15, 12pm -1 pm, 1325 HSLC

WI Hospital Association Annual Convention

September 15-17, Madison Marriot West

WMS Annual Midwest Coding and Practice Management and Physician Symposium

September 19-21, Kalahari Resort and Convention Center, Wisconsin Dells

UW-Madison Institute on Aging 22nd Annual Colloquium

September 21, Monona Terrace, Madison, WI, Free, Pre-registration is required.

READING ROOM

National HIV/AIDS Strategy Released

President Obama released a National HIV/AIDS Strategy for the United States ([Strategy](#)) and a National HIV/AIDS Strategy Federal Implementation Plan ([Federal Implementation Plan](#)), which identifies specific actions to be taken by Federal agencies to implement the Strategy's goals.

Home Genetic Tests Get 'F' from GAO

Home genetic tests often provide incomplete or misleading information to consumers, according to an undercover investigation by the Government Accountability Office (GAO).

Study Finds Doctors' Orders Help Patients Get Preferred End-Of-Life Treatment

Nursing home patients are more likely to receive the treatment they want and less likely to have unwanted hospitalizations and medical interventions under a program using medical forms signed by a physician that detail the patients' decisions about end-of-life care, according to a new study.

Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Dental Care for Publicly Insured Children

In a new Health Affairs article, researchers document racial/ethnic and insurance differences in the length of time since the last dental visit among children in California, with nearly a quarter of California children having never had a dental visit.

[Report Shows Significant Progress in Adoption of Health IT](#)

A new report, National Progress Report on eHealth, tracks progress over the last three years in promoting the adoption and use of health information technology. Published by the eHealth Initiative, the report is based on input from 100 experts around the country as well as a survey of providers.

[Goal-Setting and Follow-Up Key to Lifestyle Change](#)

A mix of counseling, self-monitoring, and follow-up with a healthcare provider is the ideal means of getting patients to make lifestyle changes that will last -- and lower their risk of heart disease, researchers say.

[Use of Comparative Effectiveness Research in Drug Coverage and Pricing Decisions](#)

Comparative effectiveness research has assumed an increasing role in drug coverage and, in some cases, pricing decisions in Europe, as decision-makers seek to obtain better value for money. This issue brief examines the use of such research in six countries—Denmark, England, France, Germany, the Netherlands, and Sweden.

[Measuring the U.S. Health Care System: A Cross-National Comparison](#)

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) tracks and reports annually on more than 1,200 health system measures across 30 industrialized countries. Based on analysis of OECD health data from 2008, the United States continues to differ markedly from other countries on a number of measures.

[Study: Socioeconomic Disparity in Cancer Incidence Across Racial/Ethnic Groups](#)

In an article in, Cancer Causes and Control, researchers attempting to examine the relationship between cancer incidence, socioeconomic status (SES), and race/ethnicity found that SES disparities in the incidence of cancer varied significantly when stratified by race/ethnicity.

[Health Care Opinion Leaders Weigh in on Barriers to Integrated and Accountable Care](#)

Nearly nine of 10 leaders in health care and health care policy believe that a lack of incentives and the current financial interests of providers and other stakeholders are holding back progress in achieving greater integration and accountability in health care delivery, according to a Commonwealth Fund/Modern Healthcare Health Care Opinion Leaders Survey.

[Paying Physicians for Medicare Services](#)

Following Congress' decision to halt the scheduled 21.5 percent cut for physician fees under Medicare and instead give physicians a temporary 2.2 percent increase, this brief examines the history, ongoing challenges presented by Medicare's doctor payment formula and options for congressional action.

[Physicians Demonstrate Mixed Feelings about HPV Vaccine](#)

Most pediatricians and family physicians offer the vaccine against human papillomavirus (HPV), but are more insistent that older teenage girls get immunized than the 11- to 12-year-olds primarily targeted for immunization, according to a national survey of primary care physicians.