



Catch-Up Briefing

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University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health



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

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STATE NEWS

Health Care Reform Implementation in Wisconsin

[71,443 WI Residents Select ACA Health Plans as of March 1; What This May or May Not Mean](#)

The federal HHS reports that, between October 1, 2013 and March 1, 2014, 71,443 thus far selected a health plan through the [Affordable Care Act Marketplace](#). The reports shows that 158,048 WI residents

are estimated eligible for ACA plans and, of these, 107,157 are eligible for federal premium tax credits to subsidize the cost. The [New York Times reports](#) that these recent enrollment figures put Wisconsin at 113% of the ACA enrollment target thus far, with 21% of ACA enrollees between ages 18-34, compared to 25% nationally.

[WCCF summarizes](#) the challenges in interpreting these data and what these figures may or may not mean. Multiple media channels, including [Politico](#), have reported the challenge with tracking ACA data, particularly in tracking the number of newly insured individuals due to the law. Wisconsin enrollment numbers, in particular, may not well reflect new insurance coverage, in that they include the approximately 70,000 [BadgerCare members currently losing that eligibility on March 31](#) and needing to find other coverage.

[WI Insurance Commission Reminds Consumers of Upcoming ACA Deadlines](#)

WI Insurance Commissioner Ted Nickel sent a press release reminding consumers of two Affordable Care Act (ACA) deadlines. In order to have health insurance coverage effective by April 1, 2014, consumers must have their insurance applications completed and submitted to the federal exchange by Saturday, March 15, 2014. The second deadline is March 31, 2014, which is when ACA open enrollment ends. Health insurance applications submitted between March 16, 2014, and March 31, 2014, will have an effective date of May 1, 2014.

[HIRSP Coverage Now Extended Through March 31 for Both State and Federal Plans](#)

The federal government has extended the federal Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan (PCIP) through March 31, 2014. In Wisconsin, this plan is run through the [HIRSP authority](#). The federal extension brings the end dates for both the state and federal HIRSP plans to the same termination date. HIRSP members will need to sign-up for new coverage through healthcare.gov prior to March 15th to avoid a gap in coverage.

[WI Health Insurance Among Highest Nationally](#)

A [new report](#) assesses both total monthly premiums by state and the percentage change in each state. It shows Wisconsin with the second highest monthly premium and among the highest in percentage change between 2010 and 2013. Wisconsin's high ACA health insurance prices stand out further in this [report and interactive map](#).

[Report: WI Medicaid Policy Costs Employers \\$25-37 Million in Tax Penalties](#)

A report by Jackson Hewitt Tax Service calculates the effect of the employer shared-responsibility tax penalties on employers in states that do not expand Medicaid, estimated to be between \$25 and \$37 million in Wisconsin and between \$1.03 and \$1.55 billion per year combined in the 25 states that have yet to expand Medicaid under the ACA. The report was released in January, prior to the federal [decision to postpone](#) the employer shared responsibility payments for employers with between 50 and 99 employees for an additional year (detailed in this [press release](#) and [fact sheet](#)).

Medicaid/BadgerCare

[WI Medicaid Director Davis Leaving for Private Sector](#)

Brett Davis, who has been Governor Walker's Medicaid Director since the Governor took office in January 2011, will leave his post on March 21. He will be taking a position with a health insurance firm in the private sector. A replacement has not yet been named.

[Legislature Considers Statewide Family Care Expansion](#)

Family Care and IRIS are state programs that provide community-based, long-term care services to elders or individuals with physical or developmental disabilities. WI DHS recently released [a report](#) to the legislature noting the success of Family Care in quality and cost control. The legislature is now considering a bill to expand the program beyond the current 57 counties to additional counties in northeastern Wisconsin. WI DHS Secretary Rhoades [tells the New York Times](#) that, despite challenges, "We're getting closer to right than most other states" in handling Medicaid long-term care.

[Wisconsin Dementia Care Redesign](#)

WI DHS has published a plan for a dementia care system redesign. The report focuses on steps DHS and its partners may take to address gaps in the current healthcare delivery infrastructure and ways to expand community and crisis services for people with dementia. Strategy focus areas include: community awareness and services, facility based long term care, care for people with significant challenging behaviors, dementia care standards and training, and research and data collection.

[Wisconsin Launches Medicaid Foster Care Medical Home Program](#)

The Department of Health Services and Department of Children and Families partnered with Children's Hospital of Wisconsin to implement a new Medicaid program providing comprehensive, coordinated, and individualized health care to children in out-of-home care and foster care. Care4Kids is offering services in Kenosha, Racine, Waukesha, Ozaukee, Washington, and Milwaukee counties. Additional resources on Care4Kids can be obtained [here](#).

[Ops Memo BC+ Extensions Policy Changes](#)

WI DHS released a memo documenting changes to be made to Badger Care Plus Extensions. CARES updated their policy to set all extensions starting in 2014 as 4 month extensions. Eligibility requirements for extensions will generally not change.

[FPL Changes for the Wisconsin Shares Child Care Subsidy Program](#)

The memo introduces the 2014 Federal Poverty Level (FPL) table for financial eligibility in the Wisconsin Shares child care subsidy program. The new limit for Wisconsin Shares applicants is 185% FPL.

[Report: 671 WI Deaths Could be Avoided with Full Medicaid Expansion](#)

A Health Affairs estimates the number and demographic characteristics of people likely to remain uninsured as a result of states' opting out of Medicaid expansion. The analysis suggests that full Medicaid expansion by states would reduce adverse health outcomes among the potentially eligible population. In Wisconsin, the number of deaths that could be avoided by fully expanding Medicaid is between 139 and 671 individuals. Wisconsin is providing coverage to 100% FPL, whereas the law's Medicaid expansion calls for 138% FPL

Workforce/Health Professionals/Training & Education

[New Physician Assistant Supervision Regulations Take Effect](#)

New WI regulations took effect March 1 that increase number of physician assistants a WI physician can supervise from 2 to 4. The new regulations also address PA prescribing and other matters that effect the supervision relationship between PAs and physicians.

[Health Care Staffing Firms Opens in Downtown Milwaukee](#)

Early January, Parallon Workforce Solutions, with headquarters in Florida and Tennessee, opens its first Wisconsin-based health care staffing agency in Milwaukee. The agency offers staffing support for healthcare facilities and placement services for healthcare professionals. Potential job candidates have the opportunity to meet with recruiters to ensure career and professional compatibility. Aspiring health care professionals can view current openings [here](#).

[Nurses for Wisconsin Initiatives](#)

Four University of Wisconsin System nursing programs were awarded \$3.2 million UW System economic development incentive grant to alleviate the nursing shortage. The initiative encourages nurses to seek advanced degrees to eventually become nurse educators. UW-Eau Claire, UW-Oshkosh, UW-Madison, and UW-Milwaukee will offer fellowships and loan forgiveness programs to nurses pursuing doctoral and postdoctoral degrees.

[Wisconsin Employers Among Healthiest Workplaces in America](#)

This year eight Wisconsin employers received the Healthiest Workplace Award. Healthiest Employers awards employers who successfully implemented corporate wellness programs and employee wellness initiatives. Froedtert & Medical College of Wisconsin, Mercy Health, Aurora Health Care, and Ministry Health Care were among the list of healthiest workplaces.

[DHS Grant to Increase Health Care Workers in Rural Areas](#)

Wisconsin Department of Health Services awarded \$1.9 million to Fox Valley Family Medicine Residency Program, Gundersen Health Systems, and UW Hospital and Clinics to expand their medical residency programs into more rural and underserved areas. Ultimately creating more opportunities for residents to practice in those locations. Targeted medical specialties included family medicine, general internal medicine, general surgery, pediatrics and psychiatry.

[UW Partnership Fund Awards Grants for Five New Studies](#)

The Wisconsin Partnership awarded the New Investigator Grant, a two-year, \$100,000 grant, to five UW School of Medicine and Public Health researchers. The New Investigator Grant was established to encourage and support new assistant professors early in their careers as they pursue research and educational approaches to address Wisconsin's public health issues. Innovative projects aim to improve health in the fields of [vascular disease, mental illness, birth defects, high-risk surgery and AIDs research](#).

[UW Offers New Certificate Program in "Leadership for Population Health Improvement"](#)

University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health is launching a new online Capstone Certificate in Leadership for Population Health Improvement. The program can be completed in one calendar year, from June through May.

Public Health

[WI legislature passes "Healthy Jobs Act"](#)

The Wisconsin legislature passed [a bill](#), now headed for Governor Walker's signature, to provide income and franchise tax credit for workplace wellness programs. The amount of the credit is equal to 30 percent of the amount that an employer pays in the taxable year to provide a workplace wellness program to any of the employer's employees who are employed at a small business in this state.

[Governor Signs Mental Health Legislation Package](#)

The legislature passed and Governor Walker signed seven bills aimed to improve mental health services. These include programs to improve crisis intervention, workforce expansions, and telehealth services for rural areas. The WI Senate has also approved a bill to [create the Milwaukee County Mental Health Board](#) (MCMHB), attached to the WI DHS, which would replace the Milwaukee County Board's oversight of the county's mental health system.

[Bill Would Exempt E-Cigarettes from WI Smoking Ban](#)

WI GOP lawmakers have proposed a [bill to clarify that e-cigarettes use is legal](#), and do not fall under the statewide ban on indoor. Doctors and scientists are expressing their [opposition](#). National reports describe how E-Cigarettes [lure young people](#) with rainbow of colors and sweet flavors. And a [new study in JAMA](#) reports that **teens who try e-cigarettes more likely to smoke regular.**

[School Garden Grants Awarded](#)

The Wisconsin Medical Society Foundation awarded \$15,487 in the School Garden Grant to thirteen schools. Recipients are encouraged to implement nutrition and health education into their school curriculums by planning and cultivating school gardens. The overarching goal of the funding is to reduce overweight and obesity rates in school-aged children.

[Give Kids a Smile Event Serves Nearly 14,000 WI Children in Single Day](#)

Wisconsin Dental Associates had their annual Give Kids a Smile event on February 7, which was staffed entirely by volunteer dentists, dental hygienists, dental assistants, students and community members who helped 13,800 Wisconsin children receive preventative and restorative dental services. The need demonstrated by this event demonstrates the ongoing public health challenge in accessing oral care for Wisconsin residents.

[Wisconsin's Seal-a-Smile Program Awarded Funds from Delta Dental](#)

Delta Dental of Wisconsin donated \$100,000 to the state's oral health program Seal-a-Smile, which provides dental sealants to prevent cavities in low-income school-aged children. The additional funding will significantly reach more children who lack adequate oral health access and services.

[Partnership between UW Dept. of Family Medicine and Tribal Clinics to Increase Alcohol Screenings](#)

UW Department of Family Medicine (DFM) has partnered with two Wisconsin American Indian Tribes to initiate a brief intervention (aSBI program) at three tribal clinics. The 4-year project, supported by the Centers for Disease Control, aims to increase alcohol screening and reduce the prevalence of drinking and alcohol-related harms among American Indians.

[Healthiest Wisconsin 2020 Baseline and Health Disparities Report Released](#)

Wisconsin Department of Health Services recently released the Healthiest Wisconsin 2020 Baseline and Health Disparities Report, disparities along health risk behaviors and outcomes. It provides details in 12 health focus areas, including alcohol and other drug use, chronic disease prevention and management, mental health, oral health and nutrition. Data are available for the following populations: Blacks/African Americans, American Indians, Asians, Hispanics/Latinos, people with disabilities and LGBT.

[WI "Oral Health Disparity Gap" Shrinking, Thanks to Dental Sealants](#)

WI DHS released its 2013 Healthy Smiles/Healthy Growth Report on Wisconsin's Third Grade children, with several significant findings. Among them, the oral health disparity gap seems to be shrinking as children of all races and socioeconomic groups have similar levels of dental sealants. Nonetheless, 18%

of WI 3rd grade children have untreated dental decay, 3% have dental pain or infection. The report also notes that 1/3 of WI children are overweight or obese, and increase over previous years.

[WI 29% Obesity Rate, Compared to 27.1% Nationally](#)

The [Gallup Index of Well-Being](#) ranks states and provides an interactive map showing where Wisconsin stands relative to its neighbors in rate of adult obesity.

[WI American Indian tribal Gaming Revenue Benefits Tribal Health Care](#)

The *Sheboygan Press Gazette* reports how Wisconsin's 11 tribes have used gaming revenue, by far their largest source of income, to supplement insufficient and shrinking federal money to cover health care costs for their members. This includes a large new dental facility in Lac du Flambeau that serves the surrounding communities.

[WI Assembly Advances Bill to Allow Dispensing of Marijuana Extract for Seizure Disorder Tx](#)

This bill specifically provides that marijuana derivative cannabidiol (commonly known as CBD oil extract) may be dispensed by a practitioner for the treatment of a seizure disorder. It allows a practitioner to provide an individual with a letter or other documentation stating that the individual possesses CBD oil extract to treat a seizure disorder.

Clinics, Hospitals, and Health Plans

[La Crosse Gains National Spotlight for Advanced Care Planning](#)

NPR News recently featured La Crosse WI, detailing its success in promoting advanced care planning and living wills, improving care while saving money.

[Dean Health Plan Ranks Highest in Member Satisfaction](#)

A new JD Power survey of Health Plan member satisfaction ranks Dean Health Plan highest among health plan members in the Minnesota-Wisconsin region.

[Newborn Screen Lab Delivery Speed Up for Public Reporting](#)

The Wisconsin Hospital Association will post performance metrics for how quickly hospitals send newborn screening samples to the state lab. The information will be reported for each hospital on [CheckPoint](#), WHA's website that lists quality and performance data for state hospitals.

[Five WI Hospitals Rank among the Nation's Top 100](#)

The Truven Health 100 Top Hospitals® study identifies hospitals and leadership teams that provide the highest level of value to their communities, based on a national balanced scorecard. The balanced scorecard measures hospital Medicare performance across 10 areas. The five Wisconsin hospitals recognized in 100 Top group are Froedtert, Aurora Sheboygan, Aspirus Wausau, Aurora Burlington, and Ministry St. Clare's Weston.

[Trilogy Health to offer Medicaid HMO](#)

The Milwaukee Business News mentioned a new partnership between Trinity Health and the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) will administer BadgerCare Plus and Medicaid SSI programs to four Southeastern counties. Residents in Racine, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, and Waukesha counties will now be eligible for the HMO plan.

[Western Wisconsin the 4th Most Expensive Insurance Market in the U.S.](#)

A recent study published in Kaiser Health News reported regions of far West Wisconsin are among the top 10 most expensive insurance markets in the United States. The average price of a policy in the reported area, which includes Pierce, Polk and St. Croix counties across the border and into Minnesota, is \$445. Rankings were based on monthly premiums for mid-level plans, "silver plans," for a forty-year-old person.

[Aurora plans for investments in Rural Communities](#)

Aurora Health Care plans to invest \$100 million for its hospitals in western Racine and Wadsworth counties. A special segment, about \$30 million, is designated for renovations in their Burlington and Elkhorn hospitals. The plans, still in the preliminary stages, will build an ambulatory surgical center and clinic, by the end of the year 2016.

[Managed Health Services Re-enters Southeast Wisconsin BadgerCare Plus Market](#)

Managed Health Services, one of Wisconsin's oldest Medicaid health maintenance organization, has been approved to offer health insurance coverage through the BadgerCare+ program. MHS, will serve low-income families in the southeast region of Wisconsin: Milwaukee, Racine, Ozaukee and Waukesha counties.

[Johnson Insurance Services New on the ACA Marketplace](#)

This spring, Johnson Insurance Services will launch a new private insurance market, called Johnson Insurance Marketplace. The exchange is only available to businesses, where employers define a fixed amount for employees to contribute. Employees will then have the option to select an insurance carrier and customize their insurance plan based on their desired tier of coverage. The new exchange will launch by April 1, 2014.

Pending Legislation

- [AB 120 health care provider "Apology Bill"](#) would allow a health care provider to express an apology, condolence, sympathy, or other sentiment to a patient or patient's family without those statements being used as evidence of liability or an admission against interest.
- [AB 711](#) and [SB 550](#): Various changes to the worker's compensation law, granting rule-making authority, and making an appropriation
- [AB 445](#) and [SB 353](#): Identification presentation and monitoring for certain prescription drugs
- [AB 446](#) and [SB 352](#): Training and agreements for administering the drug naloxone, requiring emergency medical technicians to carry naloxone, and immunity for certain individuals who administer naloxone
- [AB 448](#) and [SB 351](#): Programs for the disposal of drugs, including controlled substances, and certain medical or drug-related items, and the regulation of prescription drugs.
- [AB 292](#) and [SB 251](#): Therapeutic alternate drug selections in nursing homes, performance of patient services by a pharmacist, and the practice of pharmacy
- [AB 408](#) and [SB 311](#): A dental hygienist's administration of nitrous oxide inhalation analgesia and practice of dental hygiene
- [AB 552](#) and [SB 413](#): The definition and practice of dentistry for professional licensing purposes
- [AB 619](#) and [SB 391](#): Allowing health care providers licensed outside the state to participate in and requirements on nonprofit agencies in the volunteer health care provider program
- [AB 552](#) and [SB 413](#): The definition and practice of dentistry for professional licensing purposes
- [AB 249](#) and [SB 212](#): Instructional programs for nurse aides

- AB [502](#) and SB [375](#): The use of an epinephrine auto-injector on school premises or at a school-sponsored activity
- AB [544](#) and SB [416](#): A pupil's possession and use of an epinephrine auto-injector
- AB [654](#) and SB [523](#): Tests administered to newborns for congenital disorders
- AB [447](#) and SB [350](#): Granting immunity from certain criminal prosecutions for offenses relating to a controlled substance or a controlled substance analog
- AB [500](#) and SB [477](#): Emergency detention pilot program in Milwaukee County
- [AB 710](#) to alert media of missing cognitively impaired adults through DOJ alert system

Passed Legislation

- WI Act [116](#) & [117](#): Changing the timing of eligibility changes and other changes to BadgerCare Plus
- WI Act [126](#): Grants for crisis intervention team training and making an appropriation
- WI Act [127](#): Child psychiatry consultation program and making an appropriation
- WI Act [128](#): Creation of a primary care and psychiatry shortage grant program, exempting from taxation amounts received from such a grant program, granting rule-making authority, and making an appropriation
- WI Act [129](#): Grants to counties to contract for peer-run respite centers and making an appropriation
- WI Act [130](#): Mental health benefits and reimbursement for mental health services under the Medical Assistance program
- WI Act [131](#): Individual placement and support program for employment of individuals experiencing mental illness and making an appropriation
- WI Act [132](#): grants to mental health mobile crisis units and making an appropriation
- WI EMR [1314](#): Extension of Wisconsin Health Insurance Navigators licensing requirement rule by 60 days

RESEARCH AND PROGRAM TOOLS

- [Tools and metrics for healthcare providers to address disparities](#)
- [Health plans' data collection on race, ethnicity and language, and addressing health disparities](#)
- [A tool to help consumers select their best ACA plan based on personal cost, doctor](#)
- [Reports on state trends in Employer-Sponsored Insurance](#)
- [National and state-level data on adults with mental illness](#)
- ["Measuring Success in Health Care Value-Based Purchasing Programs"](#)
- Information on the Health Insurance Marketplace and Health Care Reform: healthcare.gov
 - [Spanish Language Marketplace](#)
 - [Marketplace Enrollment Data](#)
 - HHS [Partner Official Resources](#)
 - [Tips for Helping Consumers with Casework](#) and [FAQ](#) for Helping Consumers
 - Individual Mandate Exemption Forms: [Hardship](#), [Affordability FFM](#), [Tribal](#), [Health Care Sharing Ministry](#), [Religious Sects](#), [Incarceration](#)
- New and Updated Resources from the [Kaiser Family Foundation](#)
 - [Interactive: A State-by-State Look at How the Uninsured Fare Under the ACA](#)
 - [Medical Debt Among People with Health Insurance](#)
 - [Interactive tool examines how ACA may affect different specific groups of uninsured people](#)

- New and Updated Resources from the [Commonwealth Fund](#)
 - [Health Reform Resource Center](#)
- [Enroll America](#) Resources
 - [Uninsured Maps](#)
 - [The Uninsured Midway through ACA Open Enrollment Survey](#)
- New and Updated Resources from [HRSA](#)
- New and Updated Resources from [AHRQ](#)
- Wisconsin Toolbox:
 - [Enrollment for Health Wisconsin \(www.E4Health.org\)](#)
 - [Statewide Enrollment Directory](#)
 - [Milwaukee Enrollment Directory](#)
 - [Individual Health Insurance Carriers in Wisconsin](#)

EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- [E4Health: Calendar of ACA and BadgerCare Events and Trainings](#), ongoing
- [MS Summit](#), Pewaukee, March 25, 2014
- [10th Annual Global Health Symposium](#), UW Madison, April 1, 2014
- [WHN Transparency Briefing](#), Madison, April 1, 2014
- [Perlman Symposium on Antibiotic Discovery and Development](#), UW Madison, April 18, 2014
- [Ninth Annual Wisconsin Stem Cell Symposium](#), Madison, April 30, 2014



Selected Tweets from our Twitter Feed

Please follow us on [Twitter @UWHealthPolicy](#) to receive notice of relevant reports, research, federal and state news.

Insurers say [#ACA](#) sign-up numbers lower than federal report, due to non-payment of premium, [@politico](#) reports <http://politi.co/1lCc4AY>

State-level estimates [#churning](#): >40% of adults likely to change eligibility within 12 months, via [@Health_Affairs](#) <http://bit.ly/1qzFyDr>

Lessons so far about [#ACOs](#) via the [#Medicare](#) Shared Savings Program, reported by [@BrookingsInst](#) <http://bit.ly/1cT8qxw>

[@Health_Affairs](#) reports physicians' concerns about [#EHRs](#) impact on patient care, professional satisfaction <http://bit.ly/O1zkgF>

Are physicians prepared for payment reform? <http://bit.ly/1nLNYVX>

[@RANDCorporation](#) summarizes the current state of knowledge about value-based purchasing (VBP), impacts <http://bit.ly/Oi3ply>

"The Dangers of Quality Improvement Overload" and "Initiative Fatigue" from [@Health_Affairs](#) <http://bit.ly/1oFO7IY>

Study of [#MedicalHomes](#) in [@JAMA_current](#) finds no significant improvements in quality of care or cost reductions. <http://bit.ly/1bPhpEI>

.[@NCQA](#) responds <http://bit.ly/1cukqKY> to recent [@JAMA_current](#) study that reported little impact from [#PCMH](#) <http://bit.ly/1bPhpEI>

Other skeptical voices raised about the ROI from the patient centered medical home [#PCMH](#) <http://bit.ly/1g1C2sx>

.[@commonwealthfnd](#) comments on disappointing results of the [@RANDCorporation](#) [#MedicalHomes](#) study <http://bit.ly/1cd7IAt>

.[@NCQA](#) unveils new patient-centered medical home [#PCMH](#) standards, emphasis on teams, behavioral health, <http://bit.ly/1eoKQZS>

.[@USCBO](#): [#Medicare](#) spending per recipient will slow <http://1.usa.gov/1gnjnYN>, uninsured numbers will "fall sharply" <http://1.usa.gov/1ghZ8PZ>

.[@Avik](#) discusses [@McKinsey](#) report <http://bit.ly/1ihAT3k>, - reasons why [#ACA](#) enrollment data invite skepticism <http://onforb.es/1kHK01L>

U.S. employers experienced the smallest increase in [#healthcare](#) costs in 15 years in 2013. reports [@towerswatson](#) <http://bit.ly/1fQi2sC>

The rate of [#healthcare](#) cost growth is down, but it doesn't feel that way to consumers, via [@KaiserFamFound](#): <http://bit.ly/1cF2YOz>

Making [#ACA](#) insurance markets work with "The Three Rs"-risk adjustment, corridors, reinsurance- via [@commonwealthfnd](#) <http://bit.ly/1lz30Qb>

.[@USCBO](#) reports that GOP proposal to change [#ACA](#) definition of full-time work would increase deficit, 1M lose ESI <http://1.usa.gov/1fullA1>

Former Senator Frist asserts in [@Forbes](#): "Obamacare's 'Cadillac Tax' Could Help Reduce The Cost Of Health Care" <http://onforb.es/NzWb2m>

"Why Most Small Business Owners Will See Premiums Rise Under the [#ACA](#)" from [@nytimes](#) <http://nyti.ms/1gFu9Ly>

How States can use their All Payer Claims Databases for conducting health insurance rate review: <http://bit.ly/N8eH1S>

What causes geographic variation in [#Medicare](#) spending? Is it appropriate? What should be done? via [@Health_Affairs](#) <http://bit.ly/1chvScC>

.[@nytimes](#) reports on "Repurposing Closed Hospitals as For-Profit Medical Malls" <http://nyti.ms/1drUIKP>

.@WSJ reports that #Obamacare #ACA is boosting household income and spending
<http://on.wsj.com/1mVG9A7>

.@CMSSGov launches "eHealth University" website to help providers understand various programs.
<http://go.cms.gov/1mNO8vp>

.@KHNews reports on the "Tough Road for States Seeking Customized Medicaid Expansion"
<http://bit.ly/1cuETj3>

.@USATODAY explores "Do drug benefit managers reduce costs?" and what state lawmakers are doing to rein them in: <http://usat.ly/1c9EqLZ>

Report asserts that U.S. drug shortages continue to have financial impact on care: <http://bit.ly/1fHcaYJ>

.@BloombergNews reports how "Sugar Tops Fat in U.S. Push for Healthier Food Labels"
<http://buswk.co/1jG429P> pic.twitter.com/qXhY0roqsX

.@HealthCostInst reports on privately insured Children's Health Spending 2009-12, rise in Rx and mental health \$ <http://bit.ly/MBJpzF>

An alliance of Academic Medical Centers releases a video explaining "A New Perspective on Population Management" <http://bit.ly/1gHvmSm>

The Role of Health Care in Population Health, discussed in @JAMA current <http://bit.ly/1bPiUT6>

Survey by @urbaninstitute finds "Large Racial and Ethnic Differences in Health Insurance Literacy"
<http://urbn.is/OHk4WP>

.@RWJF_QualEqual highlights its #ConsumerEngagement efforts, lessons learned <http://bit.ly/1lnSOdn>

A health care shopping experiment - patient tries to get actual prices for hospital procedures, from @NPRHealth <http://n.pr/1hnhTCa>