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— American Medical News —

American Medical News Oct. 25, 2010

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TOP STORIES

Insurers, employers talk quality while targeting physician pay

More health industry authorities believe that improvements in standards or costs can't come without reforming how doctors are reimbursed.

Primary care doctors carrying heavier mental health load

More than a third of patients rely solely on them to treat psychiatric conditions as the number of psychiatrists fails to keep pace with demand.

GOVERNMENT & MEDICINE

Coverage denials by 4 major insurers rise nearly 50%

Preexisting conditions were used to reject more than 651,000 applicants during a three-year period, says a House committee report.

California resumes Medicaid funding for health centers

Many clinics were forced to freeze hiring and wages before the state adopted its annual budget 100 days late.

3 federal lawsuits against health system reform keep judges busy

A 20-state suit clears a major hurdle to move forward as an injunction request in Michigan is rejected and lawyers await a ruling in Virginia.

PROFESSIONAL ISSUES

More minorities enrolling at med schools, particularly Hispanics

The AAMC finds the increase encouraging because more doctors are needed to reflect the diversity of communities.

Opioid safety is focus of \$1 million-a-year educational initiative

Industry-supported PainSAFE targets how physicians and patients can avoid abuses and misuses of pain treatments.

OPINION

Editorial - **What editorial writers are saying about marijuana ballot initiatives**

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Some states are voting Nov. 2 on the following referendums: whether to legalize medical marijuana, make it more widely available or decriminalize it.

BUSINESS

Mergers between insurers and hospitals expected to accelerate

Analysts say the trend may be pushed further by health system reform and greater access to financing the acquisitions.

Online "data scraping" sparks debate about patient privacy

After a company collected information from a health website where intimate details of illnesses are shared, a question arises: How much confidentiality can users expect?

Practice Management - **Firmness, tact can reduce disruptions caused by cell phone use**

POSTED LAST WEEK

- **Humana rebrands Part D drug plan with Wal-Mart** - Oct. 19
 - **Mental health parity law not prompting many employers to drop coverage** - Oct. 19
 - **5 charged with fraud involving Johns Hopkins patients** - Oct. 20
 - **IOM urges greater role for advanced-practice nurses** - Oct. 20
 - **CVS Caremark sued by Texas pharmacy owners** - Oct. 21
 - **Greater awareness of physician burnout and depression needed, experts say** - Oct. 21
 - **Lawmakers seek postponement of Medicare pay cuts for cancer care** - Oct. 22
 - **Controlling hypertension in blacks needs early intervention, group says** - Oct. 22
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