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Aug. 22, 2011

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TOP STORIES

Economy disrupts doctors' retirement plans

A survey finds many altering their end-of-career scenarios because of flagging investments and a changing medical system.

Matthew Rice, MD, a 62-year-old emergency physician in Seattle, thought he would be firmly in retirement by now after leaving private practice earlier this year. However, Dr. Rice, like a lot of physicians his age or older, is finding himself still needing paid work. ... [Read more](#)

Antidepressants increasingly prescribed for nonpsychiatric conditions

Patients had gone to their doctors complaining of headaches, fatigue and ailments other than depression.

When patients visit their physicians for common health issues such as fatigue, headaches and premenstrual problems, they increasingly are getting a prescription for the same type of medication. ... [Read more](#)

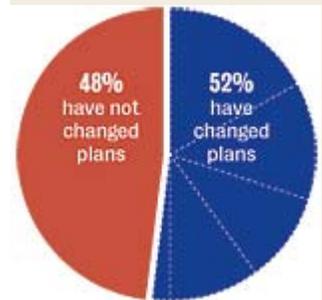
GOVERNMENT & MEDICINE

6 Georgia doctors sue Medicare over low primary care pay

They say CMS has violated federal statutes by relying on a panel to set payment rates and a process that favors specialists.

Medicare pay cuts among tough choices for bipartisan debt panel

FEATURED



Economy disrupts doctors' retirement plans

A survey finds many altering their end-of-career scenarios because of flagging investments and a changing medical system. [Read the story.](#)

Direct primary care model: Cutting out the insurer

Revealing their medical errors: Why three doctors went public

Here come the 20-somethings

Doctors confront burst of mental health problems after disasters

Few expect members to agree on the minimum \$1.2 trillion in reductions needed to prevent automatic across-the-board cuts beginning in 2013.

California doctors back bill to prevent circumcision ban

The measure comes in response to a November ballot initiative to prohibit the procedure in San Francisco. A judge ordered the initiative off the ballot.

Massachusetts patients stay with safety net providers after reform

Although facilities worried they were the last choices for health care, patients kept going to save money and for the convenience, a study says.

PROFESSIONAL ISSUES

High-tech solutions add to success of checklists in cutting bloodstream infections

Following infection-control precautions to the letter can be challenging, but the CDC says impregnated sponge dressings and catheters help.

Mississippi tort reforms lead to reduction in lawsuits

An analysis finds that insurance premiums for doctors also have decreased significantly since the 2003 reforms were adopted.

Med school's inaugural class trained as EMTs

Students begin their medical training with a nine-week program that culminates in becoming emergency medical technicians.

BUSINESS

2 Blues plans work together on Medicaid management

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Independence Blue Cross will co-own AmeriHealth Mercy and bid on contracts in other states.

Emergency departments turn to texting wait times

One system creator says practices could use the same technology, though it would be more complicated to implement.

With insurance enrollment up, most employers don't plan to drop coverage in 2014

A survey finds only about 2% will "very likely" stop offering health benefits when insurance exchanges kick in.

Technically Speaking - Online videos may offer most bang for medical marketing buck

OPINION

Editorial - What editorial writers are saying about mandatory insurance coverage for birth control

The Obama administration has announced that health plans will be required to cover contraception, among other preventive services for women, starting in 2013.

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Did you know?  Physician office staff in Canada spend 2.5 hours a week on insurance matters vs. 20.6 hours in the U.S. [Read more](#)

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HEALTH & SCIENCE

Autism among siblings more common than once thought

Nearly 19% of infants who have an older brother or sister with an ASD also developed autism by age 3, a study shows.

POSTED LAST WEEK

- More states turn to Medicaid managed care to control costs - Aug. 16
- New COPD guidelines aim to manage patients better - Aug. 16
- Diabetes app found helpful in managing condition - Aug. 17
- Illinois law prohibits sex offenders from practicing medicine - Aug. 17
- Customer service at insurance companies found lacking - Aug. 18
- Doctors want policy changes before Medicare releases claims data - Aug. 18
- CMS launches demo on emergency Medicaid psychiatric care - Aug. 19
- CT scans rise fourfold in EDs, but hospitalizations fall by half - Aug. 19

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