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TOP STORIES

How debt deal could squeeze Medicare pay even more

The agreement doesn't address the SGR cut and raises the specter of an additional \$10 billion to \$15 billion per year in reduced doctor pay.

The last-minute agreement that lawmakers and the White House reached to avoid a default on the nation's debt also considerably raises the stakes for physicians pushing for congressional action on Medicare payment before the end of the year. ... [Read more](#)

Med schools seek right fit for rural practice

Programs emphasize drawing students from rural areas and offering practical clinical experience in small-town communities to steer them toward rural medicine.

Family physician Frank Swisher, DO, is up every day at 4:30 a.m. to see patients at the nearby hospital before heading to his office. ... [Read more](#)

GOVERNMENT & MEDICINE

Health system reform law expected to spark spending rebound

A federal report predicts that millions of newly insured people, many of them relatively young and healthy, will visit physicians and fill prescriptions starting in 2014.

Major ruling overturned as gene patents are declared valid

The final decision about whether isolated genes are patentable probably will come from the U.S. Supreme Court, experts say.

FEATURED



Here come the 20-somethings Young adults are the first added to insurance rolls under health reform, but few know how the health system works. How do physicians manage these new patients? [Read the story.](#)

Direct primary care model: Cutting out the insurer

Expert witnesses on trial

10 tips to using LinkedIn

Doctors confront burst of mental health problems after disasters

Government auditors say Medicare tops improper payment list

The program reported \$48 billion in improper payments in 2010, leading a list of 70 federal programs, a GAO report says.

Lawsuit against stem cell funding dismissed

Lawmakers vow to continue pushing legislation to end confusion about what constitutes legal research.

PROFESSIONAL ISSUES

Caregiving takes toll on 42 million Americans

Relatives give \$450 billion in unpaid care to their loved ones, which often leads to stress and depression. There are ways physicians can help.

More than half of liability claims in Massachusetts end up being dropped

Attorneys find their cases are weaker than they first believed as lawsuits proceed, analysis shows.

Ethics Forum - **Culture clash: Social media vs. medical field**

BUSINESS

Here come the 20-somethings

Young adults are the first added to insurance rolls under health reform, but few know how the health system works. How do physicians manage these new patients?

Doctors and patients caught in hospital-health plan standoff

A contract battle in Pennsylvania grows more contentious when an insurer decides to buy a hospital system to compete with a university medical center.

VA sponsoring contest to expand "blue button" program

The team that installs a personal health record on the websites of 25,000 physicians wins \$50,000.

Practice Management - **Time may be ripe to expand or build medical offices**

OPINION

Editorial - What editorial writers are saying about the debt-ceiling deal

Congress approved legislation that raised the federal debt ceiling and avoided a default on spending for programs such as Medicare and Medicaid.

HEALTH & SCIENCE

Who should provide follow-up care for cancer survivors?

Primary care physicians want to share the responsibility with oncologists, while oncologists prefer to be the lead caregiver.

POSTED LAST WEEK

Did you know?  82% of U.S. hospitals have delayed patient treatment because of drug shortages.
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