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ACL News & Info

Administration for Community Living

For seniors and people with disabilities

Monday, October 1, 2012

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Health Care Law Ensures Consumers Get Clear, Consistent Information about Health Coverage

Because of the health care law, millions of Americans will have access to standardized, easy-to-understand information about health plan benefits and coverage. Insurance companies and employers are now required to provide consumers in the private health insurance market with a brief summary of what a health insurance policy or employer plan covers, called a Summary of Benefits and Coverage (SBC). Additionally, consumers will have access to a Uniform Glossary that defines insurance and medical terms in standard, consumer-friendly terms. These tools will also assist employers in finding the best coverage for their business and employees.

The SBC includes a new comparison tool, called Coverage Examples, which is modeled on the Nutrition Facts label required for packaged food, that helps consumers compare coverage options by showing a standardized sample of what each health plan will cover for two common medical situations—having a baby and managing type 2 diabetes. It will also include information about the covered health benefits, out-of-pocket costs, and the network of providers.

For more information about the Summary of Benefits and Coverage and how to use this new tool, go to
http://www.healthcare.gov/law/features/rights/sbc/index.html

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In Recent Blog Secretary Sebelius Highlights the Role of SMP Volunteers in the Fight against Medicare Fraud

In her recent Healthcare.gov blog, Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius gives credit where credit is due. She notes that "…among all of the investigative resources and technology tools available, the most valuable resource we have in the fight against Medicare fraud are the millions of seniors who serve as our eyes and ears." She adds that "Seniors are paying attention and they are fighting back against the fraudsters who are trying to steal from Medicare.

To read the Secretary's entire blog, go to
http://www.healthcare.gov/blog/2012/09/medicarefraud092012.html

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Recent Funding Announcements by HHS Secretary Sebelius

In recent days, Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced several initiatives designed to improve the quality of health and life of American families. The funding of these initiatives was made possible by the Affordable Care Act.

Health Care Law Increases Number of Mental and Behavioral Health Providers

Through the Mental and Behavioral Health Education and Training grant program, $9.8 million is being awarded to 24 graduate social work and psychology schools and programs for three-year grants. The grants will help eligible institutions of higher education – including accredited schools of social work and psychology and accredited psychology internship programs – to recruit students and provide support for clinical training in mental and behavioral health.

This initiative will boost the number of social workers and psychologists who work with Americans in rural areas, military personnel, veterans, and their families.

Mental health conditions are among the top five chronic illnesses in the United States. This program addresses a critical need for more mental and behavioral health providers, especially those trained in trauma and abuse, combat-related stress, substance abuse, and the needs of chronically ill people and their families.

To view awardees, visit
http://www.hrsa.gov/about/news/2012tables/120925mentalandbehavioral.html

ACA Funds Enhance Quality of Care at Community Health Centers

These grants will improve the quality of care at community health centers and ensure more women are screened for cervical cancer. The grants will help 810 community health centers become patient-centered medical homes (PCMHs) and increase their rates of cervical cancer screening.

The patient-centered medical home is a care delivery model designed to improve quality of care through better coordination, treating the many needs of the patient at once, increasing access, and empowering the patient to be a partner in their own care.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, an estimated 12,000 new cases of cervical cancer and more than 4,000 deaths will occur across the United States in 2012 as a result of this preventable disease. Patients who receive their health care in a patient-centered practice have been shown to receive a higher rate of preventive services, including cervical cancer screening.

A list of grantees receiving Quality Improvement in Health Centers Supplemental Funding is available at http://www.hrsa.gov/about/news/2012tables/120927healthcentersquality.html

Support for Affordable Insurance Exchanges

Last week, HHS Secretary Sebelius awarded a new round of Affordable Insurance Exchange Establishment Grants to Arkansas, Colorado, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Minnesota, and the District of Columbia. These awards will give states the flexibility and resources needed to create new health insurance marketplaces, known as Exchanges, for their residents.

The Exchanges are one-stop marketplaces that will provide access to quality, affordable private health insurance choices similar to those offered to members of Congress. Consumers in every state will be able to buy insurance from qualified health plans directly through these marketplaces and may be eligible for tax credits to help pay for their health insurance. These competitive marketplaces promote competition in the insurance marketplace and provide consumers with more insurance choices.

A total of 49 states, the District of Columbia, and four territories have received grants to begin planning their Exchanges, and 34 states and the District of Columbia have received grants to begin building their Exchanges. To ensure states have the support and time they need to build an Exchange, states may apply for grants through the end of 2014 and may use funds through the initial start-up year.

For a detailed breakdown of Exchange grant awards made to states, including summaries of how states plan on using the awards, visit: http://www.healthcare.gov/news/factsheets/2011/05/exchanges05232011a.html

For more information on Exchanges, visit: http://www.healthcare.gov/exchanges

New Program to Increase Quality in Nursing Facilities

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) last week announced seven cooperative agreement awards to partner with 145 nursing facilities to implement the Initiative to Reduce Avoidable Hospitalizations among Nursing Facility Residents. The initiative will test models to improve the quality of care and help reduce avoidable hospitalizations among nursing facility residents by funding organizations that provide enhanced on-site services and supports to nursing facility residents.

Nearly two-thirds of nursing facility residents are enrolled in Medicaid, and most are also enrolled in Medicare. These Medicare-Medicaid enrollees are among the most fragile and chronically ill individuals served by the programs. Research found that approximately 45 percent of hospitalizations among Medicare-Medicaid enrollees receiving either Medicare skilled nursing facility services or Medicaid nursing facility services could have been avoided. Total costs for these potentially avoidable hospitalizations for Medicare-Medicaid enrollees for 2011 were estimated to be between $7 and 8 billion.

For more information on this initiative, including a listing of the seven selected organizations and a downloadable fact sheet, go to http://innovations.cms.gov/initiatives/rahnfr/

To learn more about the Affordable Care Act, visit www.healthcare.gov

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Funding Opportunity

New Funding Opportunity from NIH

How does culture affect health-related beliefs and practices? Artists and arts organizations may help answer this question through a new funding opportunity from the National Institutes of Health.

This Request for Applications (RFA) will support research projects that bring together teams of social and behavioral researchers and arts and cultural experts to gain new insights into the relationships between culture and health.

To learn more about this funding opportunity, you are invited to participate in the NEA and NIH co-host live webinar on new funding opportunity on culture and health

Date: Thursday, October 4, 2012
Time: 3:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. EST

To join the webinar:

•Go to http://artsgov.adobeconnect.com/artsdev5/
•Click the "Enter as Guest" radio button
•Type in your name and click "Enter Room" to join

You may listen using your computer's speakers or dial-in to 1-877-685-5350 and use participant code: 739587.

Attendees will be muted but able to type in questions and comments through a text Q&A box.

Follow the conversation on Twitter @NEAarts with the hashtag #NEAtaskforce.

An archive of the webinar will be available on Monday, October 8, 2012 at http://www.arts.gov/research/convenings/

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Academic-Community Partnership Conference Series Funding Opportunity

The purpose of this grant opportunity is to bring together academic institutions/organizations and community organizations to identify opportunities for addressing health disparities through the use of Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR).

The objectives of meetings conducted as part of this award will be to:

- Establish and/or enhance academic-community partnerships.
- Identify community-driven research priorities
- Develop long-term collaborative CBPR research agendas.

Non-profit organizations with or without 501(c)(3) status are encouraged to apply. The opportunity is also available to various governmental entities, local organizations, for-profit groups and small businesses.

The application deadline is October 14, 2013.

To download more information and the application, go to http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-12-102.html

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Stay Informed

Medicare Open Enrollment Webinars

With the annual Medicare Open Enrollment Period (October 15–December 7) upon us, now is the time for people with Medicare and their caregivers and providers to compare plans to make sure they have the right health and prescription drug coverage.

This week, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services will sponsor two webinars to assist in this decision making. The first webinar, on October 2, will be geared towards beneficiaries with a Disability or Chronic Illness, and the second, on October 4, is designed for policy makers and representatives of advocacy organizations and it will focus on the specifics of open enrollment.

Medicare Open Enrollment for Beneficiaries with a Disability or Chronic Illness

This webinar is designed to provide an overview of the differences between the types of Medicare plans and what that means to you, how to compare plans, important issues to consider in choosing a plan and where you can get more information or assistance on making a selection.

Date: Tuesday, October 2, 2012
Time: 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. ET

Participants should join the webinar by visiting
https://webinar.cms.hhs.gov/openenrollment12

To enter the audio portion of the webinar, the call-in number is
1-877--267-1577 (Meeting ID: 00338).

Medicare Open Enrollment Webinar

This webinar will provide helpful information about the Annual Open Enrollment campaign and give an update on the health and drug plans and the Medicare Plan Finder for this year.

Date: Thursday, October 4, 2012
Time: 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. EST

Please join both the Webinar and the Audio Call:

Webinar ID: https://webinar.cms.hhs.gov/oewebinar1004

Call-in number: 1-877-267-1577 Meeting ID: 3358

Please email Anne.Avery@cms.hhs.gov or Janet.Miller2@cms.hhs.gov if you have questions or suggestions.

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Upcoming ASA Webinars

The American Society on Aging (ASA) invites you to participate in the following free webinars:

The Human Touch in Caring for Individuals with Dementia

This webinar will cover important aspects of working constructively with people who have dementia, not simply correcting behavioral and emotional issues that stem from the disease. This webinar will also discuss the effects of dementia and strategies for care that are culturally, environmentally, and historically aware with regard to the individual contexts of the client.

Date: Tuesday, October 2, 2012
Time: 11:00 a.m. PT / 12:00 p.m. MT / 1:00 p.m. CT / 2:00 p.m. ET

Register Now!

The Latest about the Boomers: Where are they going? How will they get there?

This seminar will provide an overview of boomer demographics and MetLife Mature Market Institute research on this generation. Attendees will learn about how the oldest boomers have fared in the face of an uneven economy and how they are navigating the challenges of longevity.

Date: Thursday, October 4, 2012
Time: 10:00 a.m. PT / 11:00 a.m. MT / 12:00 p.m. CT / 1:00 p.m. ET

Register Now!

Boomers and Retirement Decisions

This webinar will provide an overview of some of the factors facing boomers as they approach retirement, such as the impact of longer lives, the current economy and the risks of unexpected events. Given that older workers face a series of decisions that impact their financial security in retirement, this session will examine research findings that examine the ways in which they

think and plan for retirement, as well as the impact of financial literacy on retirement decision making.

Date: Thursday, October 11, 2012
Time: 10:00 a.m. PT / 11:00 a.m. MT / 12:00 p.m. CT / 1:00 p.m. ET

Register Now!

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Webinar Reminders

Domestic Violence Awareness Month: 3rd Annual National Call of Unity

Join the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence in this important discussion in observance of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Date: Tuesday, October 2, 2012
Time: 3:00 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. EDT

This year's call will feature the story of Christi Paul, CNN Headline News Anchor. Ms. Paul is a survivor of domestic violence and recently published author of a very inspiring and empowering book, *Love Isn't Supposed to Hurt*. She has a powerful voice and she uses it to help others in need, particularly children, as a Board of Directors member with Safe Kids Georgia and as an ambassador for Liz Claiborne's Love Is Not Abuse.

Register for this FREE event at
http://dvam2012nationalcallofunity.eventbrite.com

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Tools & Information

AoA's October Widget Highlights National Breast Cancer Awareness Month

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month and AoA's October widget offers data on the incidence of breast cancer among older women. You'll also learn about the risk factors associated with breast cancer and what you can do to raise awareness of breast cancer during October. You can view AoA's statistics widget at
http://www.aoa.gov/AoAroot/Site_Utilities/Widget/index.aspx. We invite you to include AoA's widget on your website or blog. To do so, click the "share" button on the widget and the code of the widget will display.

Would you like to send an e-card that encourages your friends to live healthy? AoA offers free e-cards with tips on healthy eating, the benefits of different types of exercise and volunteer opportunities. We also offer e-cards to thank caregivers for the all the hard work that they do for their loved ones. You can view and select an AoA e-card for a friend at http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press_Room/Social_Media/eCards/index.aspx

Follow AoA on Twitter, Facebook and YouTube! You can connect with AoA on Twitter by visiting www.twitter.com/aoagov. AoA is on Facebook at www.facebook.com/aoa.gov and our YouTube channel is online at http://www.youtube.com/user/AoA25 . Please click the "Like" button for us on Facebook, check our tweets on Twitter, and view and share our videos on YouTube. AoA's YouTube videos feature the stories of caregivers and discuss the importance of HIV testing among older adults.

Do you have questions or comments about AoA's social media? Feel free to send them to Augustina.Howe@aoa.hhs.gov

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Corps Community Day

The Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) National Health Service Corps is sponsoring the second annual Corps Community Day on October 11, 2012. The purpose of this observance is to increase awareness of the Corps and support its mission to improve access to primary care services.

In 2011, 75 activities were organized in 46 States and Puerto Rico. Please consider sharing this information with appropriate partners.

For information on how you can participate, go to http://nhsc.hrsa.gov/corpsexperience/corpcommunityday/index.html

If you have any questions, you may contact Sarah Williams in the HRSA Bureau of Clinician Recruitment and Service, at swilliams1@hrsa.gov or 301-443-1824.

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Spread the Word about Hepatitis Testing

In August, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC)'Division of Viral Hepatitis released *"Recommendations for the Identification of Chronic Hepatitis C Virus Infection Among Persons Born During 1945–1965"*. The new

recommendation calls for all Americans born from 1945 through 1965, or baby boomers, to get tested for hepatitis C one-time.

You can help by spreading the word about the new testing recommendations and directing people to the Know More Hepatitis Campaign website

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October Is...

Health Literacy Month

Health Literacy Month is a time for organizations and individuals to promote the importance of understandable health information.

For information on how you can participate in Health Literacy Month, visit the Health Literacy Month website http://www.healthliteracymonth.org

Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Preventing and detecting breast cancer early will help save more lives. Understand the lifestyle factors that may affect your risk of breast cancer and what you can do to stay healthy. Breast exams, mammograms and other screenings increase the chances of detecting breast cancer early, when they are most likely to be curable.

For information, visit the American Cancer Society Breast Cancer webpage at http://www.cancer.org/Cancer/BreastCancer/index

Every Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk is a powerful and inspiring opportunity to unite as a community to honor breast cancer survivors, raise awareness about steps we can take to reduce the risk of getting breast cancer, and raise money to help the American Cancer Society fight the disease with breast cancer research, information and services, and access to mammograms for women who need them.

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National Latin@ Network for Healthy Families and Communities

The newly launched National Latin@ Network for Healthy Families and Communities interactive website (www.nationallatinonetwork.org) is a project of Casa de Esperanza. It is committed to providing timely and relevant information and resources to people working to prevent and eliminate domestic violence within Latin@ communities.

The English/Spanish bilingual site features a resource library; public policy updates and action alerts; informative videos; training opportunities; and a blog among other culturally-specific information. Advocates, organizers, practitioners, social workers, judges, activists, youth workers, and anyone working to promote safe and healthy Latin@ families and communities will find the site useful.

Your help is needed in spreading the word about this new resource.

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Recent Reports

Barriers to Meaningful Use in Medicaid: Analysis and Recommendations
www.healthit.ahrq.gov/BarrierstoMeaningfulUseFinalReport
Source: Department of Health and Human Services Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
Date: September 2012

Medicare Private Health Plans: Selected Current Issues
http://www.gao.gov/assets/650/648677.pdf
Source: US General Accountability Office
Date: September 2012

The Affordable Care Act, The Supreme Court, and HIV: What Are the Implications?
http://www.kff.org/hivaids/upload/8363.pdf
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation
Date: September 2012

How the ACA Changes Pathways to Insurance Coverage for People with HIV
http://healthreform.kff.org/notes-on-health-insurance-and-reform/2012/september/how-the-aca-changes-pathways-to-insurance-coverage-for-people-with-hiv.aspx
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation
Date: September 2012

2011 Health Care Cost and Utilization Report
http://www.healthcostinstitute.org/2011report
Source: Health Care Cost Institute
Date: September 2012

A Survey of America's Physicians: Practice Patterns and Perspectives
http://www.physiciansfoundation.org/uploads/default/Physicians_Foundation_2012_Biennial_Survey.pdf
Source: The Physicians Foundation

Date: September 2012

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