



Newsletter

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Administration on Aging Performance Outcome Measurement Project Webpage

The Administration on Aging's [Performance Outcome Measurement Project \(POMP\) webpage](#) is now available. With the POMP webpage, we aim to increase public awareness of the information and tools necessary to conduct performance-related surveys, as well as promote the results of POMP projects over time.

We hope you will explore the new POMP webpage and share it with your colleagues.

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New HELP Committee Report Provides Recommendations to Bolster ADA

Findings in the U.S. Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee (HELP) report, *Separate and Unequal: States Fail to Fulfill the Community Living Promise of the Americans with Disabilities Act*, released last week, show that progress in providing health and community based services for persons with physical disabilities and mental illnesses has lagged significantly behind efforts for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The [report](#) includes 12 recommendations to address this and the other findings.

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New Report Finds Competition Lowers Premiums by Nearly 20 Percent in the Health Insurance Marketplace

Affordable Care Act gives consumers access to better coverage at a greater value in 2014

Last week, Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius released a new report that finds premiums in the Health Insurance Marketplace will be nearly 20 percent lower in 2014 than previously expected.

The Affordable Care Act requires health insurers in every state to publicly justify any premium rate increases of 10 percent or more. Health insurance companies now generally have to spend at least 80 cents of every premium dollar on health care or improvements to care, or provide a rebate to their policy holders. In addition, when the Health Insurance Marketplace opens for enrollment on October 1, 2013, consumers will be able to make apples to apples comparisons of quality health insurance plans.

[Read more.](#)

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Funding Opportunity

National Institute on Aging Funding Opportunity: Clinical Trial of a Multi-factorial Fall Injury Prevention Strategy in Older Persons

The National Institute on Aging (NIA) seeks applications from researchers for a clinical trial to prevent serious injuries resulting from falls in older people. The request, part of an initiative by the new Falls Injuries Prevention Partnership between NIA and the Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI), represents a unique collaboration joining scientists with clinicians and patients in pursuit of an effective strategy. PCORI will commit up to \$30 million to the effort, and NIA will administer the project, including the application process and peer review.

Key Dates:

Letter of Intent Due: October 13, 2013

Submission Dates: October 13, 2013 - November 13, 2013 (by 5:00 p.m. local time of applicant organization)

[Full announcement.](#)

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Stay Informed

Health Insurance Marketplace Stakeholder Engagement Open Door Forums

Week of July 29: The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services will hold the second in a three-part series of its Health Insurance Marketplace Stakeholder Engagement Open Door Forums. These stakeholder consultation calls will provide an update on the operational execution of the Marketplace, including systems readiness, consumer support, and outreach. Each session will include time for Q&A.

These teleconferences are intended specifically for stakeholders in states with either a Federally Facilitated Marketplace or State Partnership Marketplace. Registration is required.

[Click here](#) for the forum dates in each region and to register.

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Next Session of the HHS Healthy People 2020 Progress Review Webinar Series

Tuesday, July 30, 2013, 12:30 PM - 2:00 p.m. EDT: The burden of tuberculosis and infectious diseases in the U.S. and abroad will be the focus of the next session of the Health and Human Services (HHS) Healthy People 2020 Progress Review Webinar Series.

Dr. Howard Koh, Assistant Secretary for Health, will lead the discussion on the HHS' combined efforts to achieve the [Healthy People](#) targets.

[Click here](#) for more information and to register.

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Small Business Administration & Small Business Majority Affordable Care Act Webinar Series

The Small Business Administration (SBA) and Small Business Majority Affordable Care Act 101 webinar series meets each Thursday. Small business owners can learn the basics of the Affordable Care Act and what it means for their company and employees, including information on:

- Insurance reforms.
- Small business health care tax credit.
- New health insurance marketplaces.
- Employer shared responsibility provisions.

Here are the registration links for the next four presentations.

Thursday, July 25 at 12:00 PM ET: [Click to Register](#)

Thursday, August 1 at 2:00 PM ET: [Click to Register](#)

Thursday, August 8 at 2:00 PM ET: [Click to Register](#)

Thursday, August 15 at 2:00 PM ET: [Click to Register](#)

If you have any questions, please contact Chris Van Es at Christopher.vanes@sba.gov.

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Tools & Information

Federal Agencies Seeking Public Comment

CMS Skilled Nursing Facility Readmission Measure

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has contracted with RTI International to develop a measure for skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) designed to encourage SNFs to improve efforts to reduce hospital readmissions of SNF patients. During the development process, a technical expert panel was convened to provide feedback on the measure. The measure is now posted for public comment; public comments will be used to further refine work on the measure before submitting the measures to the National Quality Forum.

Comments are due by close of business on July 25, 2013. [Click here](#) for more information and to submit your comments.

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Long-Term Care Commission

The 15-member Long-Term Care Commission (LTC) heard recommendations regarding “Populations in Need of LTSS and Service Delivery Issues” and worker issues. Experts from various medical facilities, universities and research centers spoke.

The committee is expected to make recommendations to Congress by the end of September and is now seeking input from LTC providers. Providers can submit a comment abstract, which is a one-to-two page (double-spaced) overview of a provider's major points or a description of his or her proposal. Another option is to submit a single attachment, which can be more detailed and any length.

Proposals should be entered as a Word document or PDF and attached in an email to comment@ltccommission.senate.gov.

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New FDA Report

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is seeking public comment on its recently released report, [Ensuring Access to Adequate Information on Medical Products for All](#). The report addresses how the agency communicates the benefits and risks of medical products to health care providers and patients, especially underrepresented populations.

Comments are due by September 9, 2013. [Click here](#) for more information.

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New Federal Reserve Board Report Details Financial Experiences of Older Adults

Published last week by the Federal Reserve Board's Division of Consumer and Community Affairs, [Insights into the Financial Experiences of Older Adults: A Forum Briefing Paper](#), highlights key findings from a survey of older adults regarding their use of financial products, their financial decision-making, and their main sources of financial stress.

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New Resource from NIA to Detect Cognitive Impairment in Older Adults

Clinicians and researchers now have a new and simple way to find appropriate instruments to evaluate the cognitive status of older patients in the primary care setting. The [Instruments to Detect Cognitive Impairment in Older Adults Database](#) from the National Institute on Aging (NIA) at the National Institutes of Health contains detailed information about more than 100 published instruments for detecting Alzheimer's disease and other types of cognitive impairment.

Each instrument in the database was developed as a cognitive assessment for age-related dementia and has had at least three published studies using the instrument since its debut and at least one publication in the last 10 years. Users can search the database by specific criteria, such as time to administer the instrument, the administrator's level of expertise, cost, and target diagnosis. They can also find instruments that have been evaluated in specific populations and translated into languages other than English. Each instrument is summarized, with references cited and linked for easy access.

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New Online Retirement Toolkit

Last week, the U.S. Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration, in cooperation with the Social Security Administration, and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, launched a new online retirement toolkit to help workers identify key issues related to retirement planning. The [Retirement Toolkit](#) addresses employment-based retirement plans, Social Security, and Medicare.

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Upcoming July Observances

July 26: Anniversary of Americans with Disabilities Act

July 30: Anniversary of Medicare and Medicaid

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