



CMS Agency Report to PharmPAC
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Congratulations to CDR Hollie Cook, Seattle Regional Pharmacist on her recent promotion to O-5. Way to go Hollie!

Medicare Health Plan performance audit season is underway; all 12 regional pharmacists combined with central office staff will be auditing 11 national health plans over the next 8 weeks. These audits are essential to ensuring access to medications for Medicare beneficiaries.

**Affordable Care Act Delivers Cheaper Prescription Drugs to Nearly 500,000 People-
Law Has Already Saved \$260 Million, Averaging \$545 for People in Donut Hole**

<http://www.healthcare.gov/news/blog/Seniors06282011a.html>

New Accountable Care Organization Models Will Improve Patient Care, Could Save Medicare up to \$430 Million

<http://www.cms.gov/apps/media/press/release.asp?Counter=3957&intNumPerPage=10&checkDate=&checkKey=&srchType=1&numDays=3500&sr>

Americans Turn to AIDS Drugs to Prevent HIV Infection

AIDS therapy may prevent HIV infections according to research conducted in Africa. Three new studies show that Truvada may be effective as prophylaxis and the studies focused on PreExposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) in heterosexual couples in Africa.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/news/health/-Americans-Turn-to-AIDS-Drugs-to-Prevent-HIV-Infection-126069388.html>

Obama Administration Offers States New Ways to Improve Care, Lower Costs for Medicaid

HHS announced three new initiatives to help states improve care while lowering the costs for Medicaid:

1. Testing financial models to better coordinate care
2. Improving care quality for nursing facility residents
3. Technical assistance resource center available to states

<https://www.cms.gov/apps/media/press/release.asp?Counter=4024>

Revised Medicare forms ask doctors if they accept new patients

CMS recently added the question "Do you accept new Medicare patients?" to its enrollment forms for health care professionals in order to update the physician comparison website. HHS previously implemented "secret shoppers" to find out the number of primary care physicians who accept new patients with public insurance as opposed to private insurance; this program was put on hold however due to many criticisms. The addition of the new question has no relation to the termination of secret shoppers. CMS uses the information to update entries in Physician compare and it as a resource for Medicare beneficiaries looking for doctors. This new system however is receiving much criticism as well and CMS is working to make improvements.

<http://www.ama-assn.org/amednews/2011/07/25/gvsc0725.htm>