

Health Care Reform Update

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Charles Ingoglia
Vice President, Public Policy

Bipartisan Health Reform Summit

- February 25th
- Intended to be forum for Democrats and Republicans can openly discuss specific provisions of reform proposals
- Administration expected to release legislative proposal in advance of summit

Take Action in Support of Reform

- Sign on letter to President Obama in support of reform
- To sign on:
 - <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/R8T2959>
 - Or email Mohini Venkatesh (mohiniv@thenationalcouncil.org) with your organization's name, city, and state.
- **Deadline: COB Tomorrow, Feb. 17th.**

FMAP Extension

- Included in President's FY11 budget
- Included in the House healthcare reform bill
- Included in House Jobs bill
- Effort in Senate:
 - S. 3000
- Several state budget proposals assume an extension
 - Last week: National Council encouraged these states to send letters of support to their Senators

American Recovery & Reinvestment Act – HITECH Act

- Enacted Feb. 17, 2009
- Goals:
 - Modernize nation's infrastructure
 - Enhance energy independence
 - Expand educational opportunities
 - Provide tax relief, and
 - Preserve and improve affordable health care

Requirements for ‘Meaningful Use’ of Electronic Health Records

- On Jan 13, CMS released proposed criteria for establishing ‘meaningful use’ of EHRs
- Requirements for meaningful use (pg. 32)
 - Use of EHR technology in a meaningful manner
 - E.g. electronic prescribing
 - The certified technology is
 - Connected in a manner that provides for
 - Electronic exchange of health information to
 - Improve quality care

Requirements for Meaningful Use of Electronic Health Records

- In using the certified EHR technology
 - Provider submits to the Secretary information on
 - Clinical Quality Measures
 - Other measures selected by the Secretary
 - For Medicaid EPs to the States

Stage 1 Implementation: 2011

- Three stages of implementation; first stage: pg. 40.
 - Electronically capturing health information in a coded format
 - Using that information to track key clinical conditions
 - Communicating that information for care coordination

Stage 1 Implementation (cont.)

- Implementing clinical decision support tools to
 - Facilitate disease management
 - Medication management
 - Reporting clinical quality measures
 - Public health information

Must Use Qualified & Certified EHR Technology

- Definitions of “Qualified EHR Technology” (pg. 467)
 - A Qualified EHR must be applicable to the type of practice
 - E.g. ambulatory EHR for office based physicians
 - An electronic record of health information on an individual that includes:
 - Patient demographics
 - Clinical health Information
 - Medical History
 - Problem lists



Must Use Qualified & Certified EHR Technology

- Has capacity to
 - Provide clinical decision support
 - Support physician order entry
 - Capture and query information relevant to health care quality
 - Exchange electronic health information
 - Integrate such information from other sources

Eligibility

- Providers may access HIT incentive payments by:
 - Through the hospital they are employed in
 - Or as a non-hospital based ‘eligible professional’:
 - “(i) physician;
 - “(ii) dentist;
 - “(iii) certified nurse mid-wife;
 - “(iv) nurse practitioner; and
 - “(v) physician assistant insofar as the assistant is practicing in a rural health clinic that is led by a physician assistant or is practicing in a Federally Qualified Health Center that is so led.”

Congressional Elections Update

- In the Senate – 11 seats open because of retirements (2 of these are appointed Senators that are not running).
- In the House – 33 open seats – 16 due to retirements – others are running for other offices
- **Addiction and Mental Health Champions Retiring:**
- Senator Chris Dodd
- Representatives Kennedy (D-RI) and Bart Gordon (D-TN)



Next Healthcare Reform Update Webinar

Save the Date: March 3, 1-2pm EST



National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare

www.thenationalcouncil.org

ChuckI@thenationalcouncil.org