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e-News for Friday, March 21, 2014

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1. Congress Must End the SGR Madness in March!

March Madness is upon us, alright, but not the kind that has you filling out a bracket and thinking about which of your favorite college basketball teams will go all the way. As a physician, you need to be aware of another bracket--this one highlights the need for congressional action to stop a looming 24% cut to physician Medicare reimbursement before March 31, when the cut is slated to take effect.

Take action >>

The fight to repeal the SGR took a partisan turn last week when the US House passed legislation (237-182) intended to resolve how Medicare physicians are reimbursed. Democrats say a provision added by Republicans that would delay penalties for those who fail to buy health coverage is designed to derail bipartisan policy

Upcoming Events

Physician Sustainability and Payment Reform
March 26, 2014
Somerset Inn - Troy

Conference on Child Obesity
May 13, 2014
The Henry - Dearborn

Spring Scientific Meeting
May 14-15, 2014
The Henry - Dearborn

Conference on Maternal & Perinatal Health
May 15, 2014
The Henry - Dearborn

More Events >>

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agreement for reimbursing physicians. The White House said it would veto the bill.

This week, the AMA sent a letter to congressional leaders to express "profound disappointment" that bipartisan solution has become "a victim of partisan approaches to resolve budgetary issues."

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2. State's Healthy Michigan Plan April 1 Rollout on Target

Governor Rick Snyder this week confirmed that the Healthy Michigan Plan, which expands the state's Medicaid program, will be operational by the planned April 1 start date. The governor signed the bill into law in September 2013, and the US Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services approved the plan in December 2013.

The Healthy Michigan Plan targets low-income, non-disabled adults who historically haven't been eligible for traditional Medicaid. They must:

- Be age 19-64 years
- Have income at or below 133% of the federal poverty level under the Modified Adjusted Gross Income methodology
- Not qualify for or not be enrolled in Medicare
- Not qualify for or not be enrolled in other Medicaid programs
- Not be pregnant at the time of application
- Be residents of the state of Michigan

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3. MSMS Venture Will Grow Medical Start-ups in Michigan

On Monday, MSMS announced the launch of its new startup investment fund Quantum Medical Concepts. The fund will provide capital for Michigan-based early stage medical companies.

"MSMS has several members who are already innovators in the medical field and some even hold patents for devices they have designed for their patients," said Ben Louagie, chief operating officer for MSMS. "Through Quantum Medical Concepts,

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we can help grow businesses that are on the forefront of health care innovation in the state while providing them access to more than 15,000 medical professionals in our network."

Quantum Medical Concepts will seek to invest up to $250,000 across two to three medical startup companies per year. In addition to providing startup capital, Quantum will also offer management support for company founders through its partnership with Lansing-based startup management firm Common Wealth Enterprises.

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4. Train Online to Give CDL Physical Exams

In order to administer physical exams for Commercial Driver's License (CDL) applicants, physicians must meet criteria as set forth by the federal government. As a registered training provider of the National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners (NRCME), MSMS now offers an on-demand webinar for medical professionals seeking to be listed on the NRCME website. The online training course is designed to meet the core curriculum requirements for medical examiners according to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA).

Delivered 100% online, this course is designed to meet the needs of busy medical professionals. No travel, no classroom time, no time away from work or home. You can access and participate in this training when and where you choose.

Register now >>

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5. Get Your Golf On! Register Now for Foundation Fundraiser in June

The MSMS Foundation will hold its 22nd Annual Golf & Tennis Classic on Monday, June 2, at Forest Akers - West Course in East Lansing. Proceeds will help the Foundation support community-based health projects throughout Michigan.

Forest Akers Golf Courses are recognized as two of the best public golf courses in the state of Michigan and home to the Big Ten champion Michigan State University Men's and Women's Golf

Teams.

Register now >>

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6. Make Your Voice Heard & Win a Prize - Take Physicians Foundation Survey

The Physicians Foundation, a non-profit group of physician and medical society leaders, is conducting its third national survey of America's physicians. This landmark survey, which you may have read about in The Wall Street Journal, USA Today and many other publications, is intended to give physicians a voice. This survey has been instrumental in conveying how physicians feel about the current state of the medical profession.

All participants who include their email addresses will have the full survey report emailed to them, and will be entered in a drawing for a $10,000 travel voucher, a $2,000 Apple voucher, and multiple iPad Airs.

Take survey >>

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