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The Critical Care News Summary is an update from The Roundtable on Critical Care Policy. For further information on the Roundtable, please visit our website at www.CriticalCareRoundtable.org.

Roundtable News

Following the tremendous success of the Roundtable on Critical Care Policy's March 8th [Congressional Breakfast & Washington Outreach Day](#), the Roundtable is pleased to announce the **Third Annual National Summit on Critical Care Policy on Wednesday, June 8, 2011, at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington, DC.** The critical care community has already begun to have a voice and impact in the current federal policy environment, and the Summit will provide a timely forum for select thought-leaders to focus on policy and action priorities to optimize federal policy impacting the delivery of U.S. critical care.

Space is limited! [Register today for the Third Annual National Summit on Critical Care Policy!](#)

Capitol Hill Events and Updates

House Rules Committee: Full committee meets to formulate a rule on H.R.1213, to Repeal the Mandatory Funding Provided to States in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act To Establish American Health Benefit Exchanges; H.R.1214, to repeal mandatory funding for school-based health center construction; and H.R.3, the "No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act."

The House Rules Committee will meet on Monday, May 2nd, at 5:00pm to formulate a rule on H.R.1213, to Repeal the Mandatory Funding Provided to States in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act To Establish American Health Benefit Exchanges; H.R.1214, to repeal mandatory funding for school-based health center construction; and H.R.3, the "No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act."

Date: Monday, May 2nd
Time: 5:00 p.m.
Location: H-313, U.S. Capitol

Senate HELP Committee: Full Committee Hearing – "First, Do No Harm: Improving Health Quality and Patient Safety"

The Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions will hold a full committee hearing, titled First, Do No Harm: Improving Health Quality and Patient Safety. Witnesses to be announced.

Date: Thursday, May 5th
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Location: 430 Dirksen Senate Office Building

House Education & the Workforce Committee: Full Committee Hearing – “Policies and Priorities of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services”

The House Committee on Education and the Workforce will hold a full committee hearing, titled “Policies and Priorities of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.” Witnesses include HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius.

Date: Thursday, May 5th
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Location: 2175 Rayburn House Office Building

House Energy & Commerce Committee: Health Subcommittee Hearing – “The Need to Move Beyond SGR (Medicare sustainable growth rate)”

The Subcommittee on Health has scheduled a hearing entitled “The Need to Move Beyond the SGR.” Witnesses to be announced.

Date: Thursday, May 5th
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Location: 2123 Rayburn House Office Building

Off-the-Hill Events

From the Bedside to the Hill: Education and Empowering Staff Nurses to Advocate for the Nursing Profession’s Role in Current Health Care Policy

Georgetown University Hospital Nursing Legislative Council in conjunction with Georgetown University Hospital Nursing Education Council will be hosting a non-partisan conference for nurses and nursing students on how to advocate for nursing’s presence in health policy and the nursing profession. A panel of nurse policy-makers and advocates of the profession will speak to how nurses can influence federal legislation/health policy, effective ways to reach out to Congressional Staff, and educate staff nurses about the vital importance of being a political advocate as a nursing professional. Event registration is open until May 2nd, and can be done online [here](#). Please contact Jane Ready for questions: Jane.L.Ready@gunet@georgetown.edu.

Date: Tuesday, May 3rd
Time: 1:00-5:00 p.m. (Registration starts at 12:30 p.m.)
Location: Gorman Auditorium, Georgetown University Hospital, 3800 Reservoir Road, NW, Washington, DC

Federal Activity

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is issuing a final rule today to establish a new hospital value-based purchasing (VBP) program. This new program was created by the Affordable Care Act and will provide incentive payments to hospitals beginning in FY 2013 based on the quality of care that they deliver to patients. The VBP program marks a change in how Medicare pays health care providers and facilities -- for the first time, approximately 3,500 hospitals across the country will be paid based on the quality and not just the quantity of their services. During the first year of the VBP program, CMS will evaluate hospitals’ performance on a set of 12 clinical process of care measures as well as 8 dimensions from the Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (HCAHPS) survey, which documents patients’ experience of care.

For more information and a fact sheet on the rule, please click [here](#).

Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute

The PCORI Board of Governors will host its next meeting May 16-17, 2011 at the Millennium Broadway Hotel New York. A draft agenda and other information will be added to pcori.org as it becomes available, and a live webcast of the meeting will be provided through their website. PCORI will also be hosting a Stakeholder Discussion Forum on May 16, 2011 at the same location as the above announced Board meeting. The forum is an opportunity for patients, patient representatives, caregivers, physicians and other clinicians, plan sponsors, researchers, and others from the health care community to provide input on important issues that will guide PCORI's work.

News and Reports

"The ACO Regulations — Some Answers, More Questions," (Perspective) *The New England Journal of Medicine*, April 13, 2011

Recognizing that physicians allocate most of our health care resources, Congress and the Obama administration challenged doctors in the Affordable Care Act to develop more accountable, quality-driven health care delivery systems, promising performance bonuses for those who succeed. With the launch of Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs)—the vehicle that Congress created for tackling this task which is built on a strong foundation of primary care—the reform law raises new issues that are certain to roil relations between primary care physicians and specialists, and have profound implications for hospitals.

"Long-Term Quality of Life Lower After Surgical ICU Admission," *Medscape Medical News*, April 22, 2011

Long-term health-related quality of life is lower after a surgical intensive care unit (ICU) admission, according to the results of a study reported in the April issue of the *Archives of Surgery*. Almost half of patients admitted to surgical ICUs reported ongoing quality of life problems with mobility, self care, pain and cognition, for six to 11 years after discharge. The Dutch researchers said more study is needed to improve functionality and quality of life for ICU survivors.

For more information on the study, "Long-term Quality of Life After Surgical Intensive Care Admission," published in the April 2011 edition of the *Archives of Surgery*, please click [here](#).

"When pandemics strike, ICUs are ground zero for rapid response," *Healthzone.ca* (Canadian Publication) April 25, 2011

An international conference on developing protocols to guide ICUs during a pandemic is planned for June in Toronto, including more than 42 national and professional organizations that work on ICU issues on every continent. The goal will be to establish a communications network between intensive-care facilities to foster a rapid epidemiological assessment of any pandemic rapid response strategies, and the development of a network of ICUs that share information. The colloquium will also attempt to hammer out guidelines for rapid response drug trials to assess the effectiveness of various medications in combating a cascading disease in the midst of its spread.