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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.

Capitol Hill Events and Updates

[House Energy and Commerce Committee: Health Subcommittee Hearing on Miscellaneous Public Health Legislation](#)

The Subcommittee on Health has scheduled a hearing now entitled “Legislative Hearing on Miscellaneous Public Health Legislation.” The hearing will now cover only the following bills: H.R. 1852, the Children’s Hospital GME Support Reauthorization Act of 2011; and H.R. 2005, the Combating Autism Reauthorization Act of 2011. Witnesses to be announced.

Date: Monday, July 11th
Time: 2:00 p.m.
Location: 2123 Rayburn House Office Building

[House Budget Committee: Full Committee Hearing on “Medicare’s Future: An Examination of the Independent Payment Advisory Board”](#)

The House Committee on The Budget will hold a full committee hearing on “Medicare’s Future: An Examination of the Independent Payment Advisory Board.” Witnesses to include HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius; Douglas Holtz-Eakin, former director of the Congressional Budget Office, president of the American Action Forum; Grace-Marie Turner, president of the Galen Institute; and Judith Feder, professor and former dean of the Georgetown Public Policy Institute and Urban Institute fellow.

Date: Tuesday, July 12th
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Location: 210 Cannon House Office Building

[House Oversight and Government Reform Committee: Health Care, District of Columbia, Census, and the National Archives Subcommittee hearing on "Fulfilling A Legal Duty: Triggering A Medicare Plan From The Administration"](#)

The House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform Subcommittee on Health Care, District of Columbia, Census, and the National Archives will hold a hearing titled “Fulfilling A Legal Duty: Triggering A Medicare Plan From the Administration.” Witnesses to be announced.

Date: Tuesday, July 12th
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Location: 2154 Rayburn House Office Building

House Energy and Commerce Committee: Health Subcommittee Hearing on “IPAB (Independent Payment Advisory Board): The Controversial Consequences for Medicare and Seniors”

The Health Subcommittee hearing scheduled for Tuesday, June 14 was rescheduled for Wednesday, July 13. The hearing is entitled “IPAB: The Controversial Consequences for Medicare and Seniors.” Witnesses to include: Panel One: The Honorable Phil Roe, M.D., United States Representative, Tennessee; The Honorable Allyson Schwartz, United States Representative, Pennsylvania; The Honorable John Cornyn, United States Senator, Texas; The Honorable George Miller, United States Representative, California; Panel Two: The Honorable Kathleen Sebelius Secretary Department of Health and Human Services; Panel Three: Avik S. Roy, Healthcare Analyst, Monness, Crespi, Hardt & Co; Christopher M. Davis, Analyst on Congress and the Legislative Process, Congressional Research Service; Diane Cohen, Senior Attorney, Scharf-Norton Center for Constitutional Litigation at the Goldwater Institute; Scott Gottlieb, M.D., Resident Fellow, American Enterprise Institute; Judy Feder, Senior Fellow, Center for American Progress; Stuart Guterman, Senior Program Director, Program on Medicare's Future, The Commonwealth Fund; David Newman, Specialist in Health Care Financing, Congressional Research Service; Panel Four: Dr. Alex Valadka, Alliance for Specialty Medicine, Chief Executive Officer, Seton Brain and Spine Institute; Mary Grealey, President, Healthcare Leadership Council; Teresa Morrow, Founder, Women Against Prostate Cancer; and Dr. Jack Lewin, Chief Executive Officer, American College of Cardiology.

Date: Wednesday, July 13th

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Location: 2123 Rayburn House Office Building

House Budget Committee: Full Committee Hearing on “Medicare and Social Security: The Fiscal Facts. The Sustainability of American Health and Retirement Security Programs”

The House Committee on the Budget will hold a hearing entitled “Medicare and Social Security: The Fiscal Facts. The Sustainability of American Health and Retirement Security Programs.” Witnesses to include Richard Foster, chief actuary at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services; and Stephen Goss, chief actuary of the Social Security Administration.

Date: Wednesday, July 13th

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Location: 210 Cannon House Office Building

News and Reports

“For seriously ill, quality of life valued above its length, poll finds,” *The Seattle Times*, July 6, 2011

A poll conducted by the *National Journal* and The Regence Foundation of registered voters in Washington and Oregon found that about half said the health care system spends too much money keeping seriously ill patients alive. The survey, released on Wednesday, also found that people supported the idea of palliative care but thought it was available only to those with the right insurance or resources.

The poll is the second in a three-part series called "Living Well at the End of Life: A National Conversation," which is dedicated to exploring Americans' attitudes and approaches toward end-of-life. *National Journal* Editorial Director, Ron Brownstein, discussed the series at the Roundtable's National Summit in June.

To view the topline results of the poll, please click [here](#).

“Death panels’ haunt health care debate,” *Politico*, July 5, 2011

In the current charged political environment, some policymakers continue working to reform how the terminally ill are treated in a system that many regard as fundamentally broken. A recent report from the National Institute for Health Care Management found that 5 percent of patients account for 50 percent of U.S. health spending, and the sickest patients approaching the end of life contribute to this skewed spending. Moreover, the health system contains hidden incentives that work against the simple, common wish to die at home with the least pain possible, leading to a cycling of incurably ill patients between hospitals and nursing homes.

“First responders, such as those in Joplin, face risk of traumatic stress,” *The Kansas City Star*, July 4, 2011

A group of Kansas City ICU nurses went to Joplin, Mo., to help relieve colleagues at local hospitals and found the sorrow and traumatic stress that overwhelmed patients affected them as well, despite being trained in critical incident stress management.

“Hospitals turn to telemedicine for remote care of patients,” *The Arizona Republic/USA Today*, July 3, 2011

Healthcare companies have turned increasingly to remote doctors to monitor their patients because of a shortage of critical care specialists. The idea of using telemedicine to bolster care at even established urban hospitals has gained momentum based on recent research--in a May article published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, researchers found that patients at a Massachusetts hospital that operated an eICU system suffered fewer infections and fatalities.

“Bioterrorism and the Vital Role of Family Physicians,” *American Academy of Family Physician’s American Family Physician*, July 1, 2011

Dr. Kevin Yeskey, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response at HHS, asserts that family physicians and other primary care physicians have a vital role in protecting our patients and our nation against bioterrorism. Dr. Yeskey, with U.S. Army Medical Department Liaison to HHS Dr. Mark Harris, outlines several steps for family physicians to help prepare themselves, their families, their practices, and their communities for the prevention or response to bioterrorist threats.