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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](http://www.CriticalCareRoundtable.org).*

## Capitol Hill Events and Updates

Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) and Congressman Erik Paulsen (R-MN) on Monday announced the creation of a Congressional Wellness Caucus to put workplace wellness on the nation's agenda. The goal is to give businesses a better blueprint for how to reduce health care costs by helping workers make better lifestyle choices. The Minnesota politicians said they will chair the Congressional Wellness Caucus with Senator John Thune (R-SD) and Congressman Ron Kind (D-WI), who have also signed on to the effort approved by the House last Friday and is expected to be in full force by fall. For more information on the creation of the Congressional Wellness Caucus, please click [here](#).

### [Senate Finance Committee: Full Committee Hearing on “Health Care Entitlements: The Road Forward”](#)

*The Senate Committee on Finance will hold a full committee hearing, titled “Health Care Entitlements: The Road Forward.” The hearing will focus on what role, if any, Medicare and Medicaid should play in the deficit reduction effort. Witnesses to be announced.*

**Date:** Thursday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>  
**Time:** 10:00 a.m.  
**Location:** 215 Dirksen Senate Office Building

### [House Energy and Commerce Committee: Health Subcommittee Hearing on “Dual-Eligibles: Understanding This Vulnerable Population and How to Improve Their Care”](#)

*The Subcommittee on Health has scheduled a hearing on “Dual-Eligibles: Understanding This Vulnerable Population and How to Improve Their Care.” Witnesses to be announced. Note: The hearing was originally scheduled for room 2123.*

**Date:** Tuesday, June 21<sup>st</sup>  
**Time:** 2:00 p.m.  
**Location:** 2323 Rayburn House Office Building

### [House Ways and Means Committee: Health Subcommittee Hearing on the “2011 Medicare Trustees Report”](#)

*The House Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Health will hold a hearing on the “2011 Medicare Trustees Report.” Medicare's Public Trustees Charles Blahous III and Robert Reischauer will testify.*

**Date:** Wednesday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>  
**Time:** 9:30 a.m.  
**Location:** 1100 Longworth House Office Building

## [House Energy and Commerce Committee: Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee Hearing on “Protecting Medicare with Improvements to the Secondary Payer Regime”](#)

*The Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations has scheduled a hearing on “Protecting Medicare with Improvements to the Secondary Payer Regime.” Witnesses to be announced.*

**Date:** Wednesday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>

**Time:** 10:00 a.m.

**Location:** 2322 Rayburn House Office Building

## **Federal Activity**

### **Medicare Payment Advisory Commission**

This week, the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC) released the second of their bi-annual recommendations report to Congress regarding Medicare payment policies and quality improvement measures. MedPAC is an independent Congressional agency that advises Congress on issues relating to Medicare payments as well as access to and quality of care.

The June report builds on MedPAC’s previous recommendations to change Medicare's payment systems to reward the quality of care providers deliver, instead of rewarding the volume of care provided. In this report, the Commission examines the following issues: improving payment accuracy for ancillary services; the fee-for-service benefit design; the sustainable growth rate system for physician payment; dual-eligible beneficiaries; federally qualified health centers; and enhancing Medicare’s oversight of providers.

To view the full report click [here](#). A press release on the report is attached.

### **Food and Drug Administration**

#### **[“FDA requests health professionals report drug shortages,”](#) *Inside Health Policy*, June 14, 2011**

FDA asked health care professionals late last week to inform the agency when they become aware of drug shortages as part of FDA's effort to lessen the impact of deficiencies in the drug supply, with the issue spurring a recent request for a report on the cause of these deficiencies and legislation from Capitol Hill. An increasing number of drug shortages – particularly those involving older, sterile injectable drugs – led FDA to begin seeking assistance to address the situation, the agency said. FDA adds that it is also working with drug companies to resolve shortages, though it suggested that it may be necessary for health care professionals to identify other treatment options for patients.

For more information on the FDA’s drug shortage efforts, please click [here](#).