



805 15th Street NW, Suite 650 | Washington, DC 20005 | (202) 466-8700
www.CriticalCareRoundtable.org

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

[Senate Appropriations Committee: Labor, HHS, Education and Related Agencies Subcommittee Hearing on the President's FY2012 Budget for the Health and Human Services Department](#)

The Senate Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education and Related Agencies will hold a hearing on the President's FY2012 budget for the Health and Human Services Department. Witnesses include HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius.

Date: Wednesday, March 30th
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Location: 124 Dirksen Senate Office Building

[House Energy and Commerce Committee: Health Subcommittee Hearing on "True Cost of PPACA \(Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act\): Effects on the Budget and Jobs"](#)

The Subcommittee on Health has scheduled a hearing on Wednesday, March 30th entitled "True Cost of PPACA: Effects on the Budget and Jobs." Witnesses to be announced.

Date: Wednesday, March 30th
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Location: 2123 Rayburn House Office Building

[House Committee on Appropriations: Labor, HHS, Education and Related Agencies Subcommittee Hearing on Health Reform](#)

The House Committee on Appropriations' Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education and Related Agencies will hold a hearing on health reform on Friday, April 1st, at 10:00am in Room 2358-C of the Rayburn House Office Building. Witnesses to include Hon. Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary of Health and Human Services.

Date: Friday, April 1st
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Location: 2358-C Rayburn House Office Building

Federal Activity

[“National Quality Strategy will promote better health, quality care for Americans,”](#) (press release)

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, March 21, 2011

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius released on Monday the National Strategy for Quality Improvement in Health Care, which aims to boost the quality of patient care while streamlining the health system to ease the burden on providers. The federal strategy, which is mandated under the Affordable Care Act, calls the U.S. healthcare system fragmented and disorganized, and includes efforts to spur widespread use of electronic health records and increase patient safety.

To view the full report to Congress, please click [here](#).

This week the **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** announced the re-launching of the CMS Innovation Center website: Innovations.cms.gov. Along with providing information about the Innovation Center’s mission and operating process, the website provide ways for the Center to gather new ideas to improve the health care system for Medicare, Medicaid and CHIP beneficiaries. Created by the Affordable Care Act, the Innovation Center has ten billion dollars from 2011-2019 at its disposal to test new innovative health care delivery reforms. The Center’s mission is to transform the American health care system to deliver better care at reduced costs. The Center seeks to accomplish these goals by identifying, testing and disseminating successful new models of care and payment.

News and Reports

[“Doctor says more integrated equipment can save lives,”](#) *The Baltimore Sun*, March 15, 2011

Hospital intensive care units and emergency departments need integrated medical equipment that allows for a streamlined flow of information to providers, Johns Hopkins safety expert Dr. Peter Pronovost wrote in a Journal of the American Medical Association commentary. Pronovost and medical student Simon C. Matthews said failure to create integrated systems could lead to medical errors, diagnostic errors and miscommunication.

To view the full commentary, “The Need for Systems Integration in Health Care,” in *The Journal of the American Medical Association*, please click [here](#).

[“As health-care law turns 1, supporters using occasion to shape its image,”](#) *The Washington Post*, March 23, 2011

A year after a titanic partisan battle in Congress yielded a 2,073-page statute, the administration is trying to focus attention on the parts of the law that have taken effect earliest, though the number of people helped so far is relatively small — or unknown. Regardless of whether support for the law grows, other large unknowns hover over how the statute will work, if it reaches the key year of 2014 intact.