



for **QUESTIONS**

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**Additional Health Care  
Public Policy Professionals**

*An executive summary of political, legal and regulatory issues that may impact your business, prepared by Polsinelli Shughart Health Care legal and Public Policy professionals.*

## Health Reform + Related Health Policy News Update for January 16, 2013

### Top News

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#### Fiscal Cliff Deal Lengthens Medicare Overpayment Recovery Period

The American Taxpayer Relief Act includes a little-noticed provision that increased the government's overpayment recovery period from three years to five years. The provision is expected to save \$500 million in previously uncollected overpayments and will be used to partially offset the Medicare physician payment "doc fix." [\[More ...\]](#)

#### Cutting Medicaid Provider Tax May Shift Costs to States, CRS Finds

Proposals to reduce or eliminate the Medicaid provider tax threshold would likely force states to reevaluate their current Medicaid spending and service levels, according to a Congressional Research Service report. [\[More ...\]](#)

#### MedPAC Finalizes Payment Recommendations, GAO Solicits Commissioner Nominations

The Medicare Payment Advisory Commission recently finalized a number of payment recommendations for its March Report to Congress. [\[More ...\]](#)

#### President Obama Signs SMART Act

Cynthia E. Berry  
Teresa A. Brooks  
Julius W. Hobson, Jr.  
Steven K. Stranne  
Harry Sporidis

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President Obama on January 10 signed the Strengthening Medicare and Repaying Taxpayers (SMART) Act. [[More ...](#)]

### CDC Says Flu Levels 'Elevated in Most of the U.S.'

The CDC is reporting that the flu is now widespread across 47 states, up from 41 last week. The flu vaccine has been found to be 62 percent effective in warding off the illness, according to the January 11 edition of the CDC's *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*. [[More ...](#)]

### White House to Lose Key Health Advisor

Nancy Ann DeParle is leaving her position as key health advisor and deputy chief of staff at the White House and is slated to take on a position as a guest scholar in economic studies at the Brookings Institution. [[More ...](#)]

## State News

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- [New York Public Hospitals to Restrict Opioid Painkiller Prescriptions](#)
- [California Will Expand Medi-Cal, UC Berkely Says Expansion Will Provide Significant Increase of Coverage at Minimal Cost to the State](#)
- [Arizona, New Mexico Announce Medicaid Expansion Plans](#)
- [Mississippi Attorney General Says Commissioner Can Create Exchange](#)
- [Maine's State Plan Amendment Partially Approved](#)

## Regulatory News

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- [HHS Issues Proposed Rule on Medicaid and the Insurance Exchanges](#)
- [HHS Announces 106 New Accountable Care Organizations, Releases Report on Medicare Spending](#)
- [CMS Announces 4th Round of Community Based Care Transitions Program Participants](#)

## Additional Reading

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Click [here](#) for a list of additional articles beginning on page 7.

## Federal Register

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Click [here](#) to preview a summary of notices which appeared in the January 10, 2013 - January 22, 2013 *Federal Register* beginning on page 7.

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