



## California

**A lower uninsured rate places burden on charity care requirements**– Four California hospitals are asking the Attorney General for a 50-75% decrease in charity care requirements, stating that it is becoming increasingly difficult to qualify for tax breaks due to a decrease in the number of uninsured people. Others cite that there are still 3 million uninsured people they can provide care to.

**AC Wellness coming to Santa Clara**– Coming Spring 2018, Apple's new primary clinics will be available to employees and employees' family members. New job postings include a search for physicians, behavioral health workers, and prevention effort coordinators.

**Physician Group Allied Pacific seeks to revive Pacific Alliance Medical Center**– Heavy maintenance costs led to the hospital's shutdown in November 2017. Allied Pacific partnered with AHMC Healthcare system to place a bid. The group believes the 128-bed facility can be turned into a 24-hour urgent care facility.

**LA County Sheriff's Department recruiting jail physicians**– LA county is offering to pay off student debts for young physicians interested in working at the jails. The lack of healthcare personnel results in 10+ hour waits for some prisoners.



## Other States

**Oregon's Right to Health Care bill fails to garner support**– Sponsored by Democrats, the bill would have placed a referendum to voters to add the right to healthcare as a constitutional right. Last year, Oregonians voted "yes" on keeping taxes on healthcare insurance to provide Medicaid expansion funding.

**Hospitals to see 1.5 percent gain from the 2018 Medicare Outpatient Prospective Payment System**– Research conducted by DC-based firm, Avalere Health, shows that 42 states, including MA, have seen gains and will continue to do so despite cuts to the 340B program. This is in large part to the increase in payments for non-drug items and services.

**Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield to offer farmers insurance plans that do not comply with ACA**– After Idaho Blue Cross declared a move to follow through with non-compliant insurance plans, Iowa insurer follows suit. The new plan will offer Iowa's Farm Bureau cheaper insurance without consumer protections such as additional charges for pre-existing conditions. The Bureau currently has 28,000 members and has no requirements other than a \$55 membership fee.

**Utah Senate Bill 217 looks to put an end to cognitive testing for physicians over 70**– The Utah Medical Association is against the test, believing the test is discriminating physicians based on age. The bill states that only tests designed according to the American Medical Association's standards should be used. The current test is created and administered by Intermountain Healthcare.

**Ohio's Cleveland Clinic looks to open new hospital**– In January 2017, Cleveland Clinic finalized plans to construct a 205-bed hospital in London starting in 2021. The system already has a presence in Toronto and Abu Dhabi.

## Snapshots

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### **Illinois Department of Public Health reports 4,500+ women crossed the state border for abortions in 2016**

Indiana, Iowa, and Missouri have been creating stricter regulations on abortions that would make access to abortion difficult.

In turn, Illinois has been expanding services. As a result, the state saw an increase of 42% for out-of-state abortions from 2015-2016, despite a 3.7% decline of overall abortions.



### **New family planning funding available through Office of Population Affairs**

\$260 million are available through Title X family planning program grants. While grants cannot be given for programs with abortion services, Planned Parenthood may still apply.



### **CDC requires money to renew facilities studying deadly pathogens**

The center is requesting \$350 million from Congress to renew its BSL4 laboratories that require maintenance to safeguard pathogens such as Ebola. Facilities will need to be replaced by 2023.



### **Pharmaceutical companies encouraged to join fight against opioid epidemic**

The Food and Drug Administration calls on pharmaceutical companies to create formulas to help current opioid addiction drugs last longer.

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