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INDUSTRY NEWS

Millions who buy health insurance brace for sharp increases
The Associated Press via Chicago Tribune
Millions of people who buy individual health insurance policies and get no financial help from the Affordable Care Act are bracing for another year of double-digit premium increases, and their frustration is boiling over. Some are expecting premiums for 2018 to rival a mortgage payment. READ MORE

CMS waives provider screening, DME requirements for Texas and Louisiana hurricane victims
I Advance Senior Care
The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services recently approved suspending certain
Medicare enrollment screening requirements for healthcare providers and suppliers that are assisting with Hurricane Harvey recovery efforts in areas impacted in Texas and Louisiana. CMS also has issued new guidance to support people who are impacted by the loss of their durable medical equipment, prosthetics, orthotics and supplies due to Hurricane Harvey. The ongoing response from CMS is focused on helping Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries, providers, facilities and the general public with their immediate needs and ensuring access to healthcare services and resources are not interrupted throughout the recovery. READ MORE

EHR use prevalent among skilled nursing facilities in 2016

EHRIntelligence
A new ONC data brief exploring EHR adoption, use, and interoperability in skilled nursing facilities found 64 percent of facilities used EHRs to manage patient health data in 2016. The data brief marks a first at ONC in measuring SNF EHR adoption rates. READ MORE

FDA clears first gene-altering therapy — 'a living drug' — for childhood leukemia

The Washington Post
The Food and Drug Administration approved a groundbreaking cancer treatment for childhood leukemia that uses patients' genetically altered immune cells to fight the disease. It is the first gene therapy to be cleared in the United States — a "historic" action, the agency said — and one with major ramifications for patients with cancer as well as other diseases. READ MORE

CMS expects few hospitals to participate in readmissions experiment

Modern Healthcare
The CMS expects few providers to volunteer for an experiment to help track unplanned readmissions and their causes, even though the pilot is a precursor for a mandatory change in how hospitals are penalized. In the fiscal 2018 inpatient pay rule released last month, the agency finalized plans for a pilot to test a new hybrid hospitalwide readmissions measure. The new approach estimates unplanned returns to the hospital within 30 days of discharge using clinical data from patients' electronic health records as well as Medicare claims data. READ MORE

Opioid crisis: How America’s colleges are reacting to the epidemic

NBC News
The deadly opioid epidemic sweeping the country has largely spared college campuses, but drug abuse experts warn administrators they should be paying closer attention. "This is a time when young adults have more access to substances than ever before and have more economic leverage and legal protections," said Dr. Joseph Lee, medical director for the Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation Youth Continuum in Minnesota. READ MORE