



HEALTHCARE ROUND-UP



January 25, 2017

[President Trump Issues Executive Order Scaling Back Parts of Obamacare](#)

The New York Times

In his first executive order, President Trump directed government agencies to scale back as many aspects of the ACA as possible, moving within hours of being sworn in to fulfill his pledge to eviscerate Barack Obama's signature healthcare law. The one-page order, which Mr. Trump signed in an Oval Office ceremony shortly before departing for the inaugural balls, gave no specifics about which aspects of the law it was targeting.

[What Trump's ACA Executive Order Means for Employers](#)

Employee Benefits News

President Trump has issued an executive order directing members of his administration to take steps that will facilitate the repeal and replacement of the ACA, but experts note employers should continue with business as usual until solid formalities come out.

[What We Know and Don't Know about President Trump's Healthcare Plans](#)

The Hill

President Trump told Fox News last week that when it comes to Obamacare, "we're going to have a plan that's going to be great for people." What that plan will actually be, though, remains unclear.

[President Trump's Vow to Repeal Health Law Revives Talk of High-Risk Pools](#)

The New York Times

About 27 percent of people under 65 are thought to have some sort of pre-existing condition that will most likely leave them without individual insurance if the ACA is repealed, according to a recent study. President Trump insists he wants to keep the pre-existing requirement for insurers, and other top Republicans say people who want coverage should not be turned away. Details about how they will cover people with existing medical conditions have not yet emerged, but many lawmakers have started pushing an idea - known as high-risk pools - that left many people uncovered or with strict limits to their coverage in the past.

[An Obamacare Replacement Republicans and Democrats Can Agree On. Really.](#)

CNBC

It is not a question of whether or not Republicans and Democrats will come to a compromise over replacing Obamacare. Since it will take 60 Senate votes, and the Republicans only have 52 seats, there is no way we can get to a solution to the Obamacare conundrum without a bipartisan compromise. So, what might that look like?

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[Key House Committee Will Hold Hearings on First Obamacare Replacement Bills Next Week](#)

The Washington Post

In a sign that Republican lawmakers are set to move swiftly on plans to repeal and replace the ACA, key House committees are scheduling hearings and drafting legislation to unravel former president Barack Obama's major domestic achievement.

[Is the Trump Administration on Its Way to Its Own "If You Like Your Health Plan You Can Keep It" Fiasco?](#)

Healthcare Policy and Marketplace Review

The administration issued an [executive order](#) giving Trump administration appointees enormous flexibility in modifying how the Obamacare individual health insurance market works. Specifically, President Trump has given his administration the power "to waive, defer, grant exemptions from or delay the implementation of any provision or requirement of [Obamacare]." The administration has not been clear about just exactly what it is they now want to do. Their action raises a basic question: Why grant this flexibility if it is not their intent to materially change the way Obamacare works in the individual health insurance market?

[The End of Obamacare: 'Replace' Is the Key Word for Health Industry](#)

The Washington Examiner

Pharmaceutical, insurance and hospital CEOs at JPMorgan's Healthcare Investor Conference this month conveyed an outward air of confidence that Congress wouldn't just erase the ACA without replacing it, a move that could deprive millions of people of health coverage and cause industry-wide ripple effects. Yet there was also a sense of uncertainty at the four-day gathering. Executives were troubled by President Trump's push to ditch the healthcare law immediately. But they were more worried that Republicans won't abide by his promises to replace the law quickly with a plan that covers just as many people.

[Interstate Insurance Sales: Wishful Thinking, or a Viable Policy Option?](#)

Health Affairs Blog

President Trump has proposed permitting insurers to sell insurance plans across state lines as a possible alternative to the ACA, or at least as a component of a potential alternative. In this post, we'll take a look at the possible advantages of allowing interstate insurance sales, as well as the reasons opponents say such a policy simply won't work. First, though, let's take a closer look at the current situation.

[Republican Insurance Commissioner Proposes ACA Patch](#)

BenefitsPro

A newly elected Republican state insurance commissioner is asking Republican congressional leaders to move to stabilize the commercial health insurance system that exists now while working on efforts to move to a new system. The commissioner, Jon Godfread of North Dakota, may be contributing to the pressure on Republicans in Congress to work with Democrats to change or replace the current ACA system.

The National Association of Professional Employer Organizations