



HEALTHCARE ROUND-UP



June 14, 2017

Employers Need to Protect Benefit Plans Against Cyberattacks

BenefitsPro

Think only credit card data and bank accounts are the targets of cyberattacks? Think again - because employee benefits data is in the hackers' crosshairs. That's according to a [report](#) by the Society for Human Resource Management, which says that attacks on benefit plans can result in more than just loss of data for employers who fail to safeguard the information.

GOP Considers Keeping Obamacare Taxes

The Hill

Senators are seriously considering keeping in place some Obamacare taxes for longer than the House-passed bill would as they seek to draft healthcare legislation that can pass their chamber with a simple majority. That's because the Senate healthcare bill must save at least as much money as the House's legislation. Some senators are interested in additions to the healthcare bill that could cost the government, and savings would have to be found elsewhere, perhaps in some of the taxes.

One Thing Republicans and Democrats Can Agree On: The Small Business Healthcare Relief Act

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In the five months since the Small Business Healthcare Relief Act passed into law, opportunities have been opening up for small businesses to resume offering HRAs. According to a [WEX Health survey](#) of healthcare industry leaders and experts at its Partner Conference in April, a quarter of respondents are currently selling the new small business HRA products. A similar percentage (28 percent) plan to start selling it during open enrollment this year.

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Five Reasons Employers Should Pay Attention to the Single-payer Debate

Employee Benefits News

Two of the most populous and legislatively influential states in the nation - California and New York - currently have single-payer healthcare systems under serious consideration. If enacted, these measures would eliminate the private health insurance industry in those states, including health insurance carriers, brokers and employer-sponsored health benefits, and replace them with state-run programs. Here are five reasons why all employers cannot ignore the single-payer debate in these bellwether states.

Underwriting Losses Hit More than Half of Provider-owned Plans

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Provider-owned health insurance plans are suffering from all the changes and uncertainty in the healthcare market, according to a special [report](#) from A.M. Best. "Growing Pains as More Providers Set-Up Their Own Health Plans" finds that in 2016, 52 percent of such plans reported an underwriting loss. While the total population of plans in the report experienced a \$1.2 billion underwriting gain in 2016, the underwriting results of that same population become a \$699 million loss for the year when Kaiser Foundation Health Plan's results are excluded.

Trump Administration Says Almost 2 Million Fewer Paying Obamacare Customers after Bills Came Due

CNBC

The Trump Administration [announced](#) that the number of paying customers for Obamacare plans was 10.3 million in February, nearly 2 million people fewer than the actual number who signed up for a health insurance plan sold on a government marketplace.

Where the Obamacare Exchanges Might have Zero Insurance Options in 2018

The Washington Post

Next year, dozens of counties across the country could be left with no insurance companies offering insurance in the ACA marketplaces. Nationwide, that leaves 35 thousand marketplace enrollees living in a county with no affordable way to purchase insurance, and 2.4 million would be left with just one insurer's plan to choose from. That's out of 12.2 million enrollee's total.

Iowa Asks to Rewrite ACA Rules to Prop Up its Insurance Exchange

The Washington Post

Iowa is asking the Trump administration for permission to jettison fundamental aspects of its ACA marketplace in order to prevent the state from becoming the first without any health plans available under the law next year. In the plan proposed by Iowa's insurance commissioner, the state would abolish Iowa's ACA insurance exchange and give people federal help in paying for coverage outside the marketplace, eliminate the law's subsidies for insurance premiums and out-of-pocket costs, and create a tax credit for health insurance. It would also replace tiers of coverage with a single level of insurance for individuals buying health plans on their own.

[Centene Plans to Expand Health Exchange Presence](#)

ABC News

Health insurer Centene announced plans to expand into more ACA insurance exchanges for next year, at a time when competitors are either pulling back from those markets or proposing steep price hikes to remain. The insurer said it will start offering coverage on exchanges in Missouri, Kansas and Nevada. It also will expand its presence in Florida, Ohio, Texas and Washington, among other states.

[Rising Health Costs May Cause People to Contribute Less to 401\(k\) Plans. Here's What Can Help](#)

CNBC

Skyrocketing health costs don't just make it harder for you now - they can diminish your retirement, too. More than 60 percent of employees said they are contributing less to their 401(k) plans because of rising healthcare costs, according to a [new survey](#) from Bank of America Merrill Lynch.

[Different Generations, Different Healthcare Wish Lists](#)

BenefitsPro

Different generations are expressing their own needs and interests about how healthcare is delivered, according to a [survey](#) of 2,016 U.S. adults conducted by Oliver Wyman, in collaboration with Fortune Knowledge Group. While nearly 80 percent of the respondents say their medical care is "good or great," there are differences across the generations about their wish lists for healthcare.

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