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Good morning Ms Cathy Thompson

July 13, 2016

Leading The News

Deductibles For Many ACA Plans Fell, CMS Says.

[CNBC](#) (7/12, Mangan) reports the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services said that “the median deductibles for HealthCare.gov insurance plans fell from \$900 last year, to \$850 annually this year, a 5.5-percent decrease.” Additionally, plans sold on the federally operated marketplace “typically cover seven or more common health services without requiring that consumers meet their deductible limits first.”

However, [Modern Healthcare](#) (7/12, Herman, Subscription Publication) reports that 43 percent of this year’s “marketplace enrollees still have an average deductible of at least \$2,500.”

Also covering this story are [The Hill](#) (7/12, Sullivan), the [Morning Consult](#) (7/12, Owens), and the [Washington Examiner](#) (7/12, Westwood).

Psychiatric News Alert



[Smoking Reduction May Decrease Suicidality in Patients With Psychosis](#)

[Study Suggests Adjunctive Brexpiprazole May Reduce Irritability in Patients With MDD](#)

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Psychiatric Treatment/Disorders

Mouse Study Detects Patterns In Retina Signifying Progression Of Alzheimer’s.

[Tech Times](#) (7/12, James) reports, “A group of researchers at the University of Minnesota found that it might be possible to diagnose Alzheimer’s disease years before its effects can be seen in patients,” the findings of a mouse [study](#) published in the June issue of *Investigative Ophthalmology and Visual Science* suggest.

[US News & World Report](#) (7/12, Oliver) reports that using a camera, researchers found that “patterns in the retinas – through changes in light reflection as early stages of amyloid plaque gathered – that signified the” progression of Alzheimer’s. The article also points out that “warning signs” of

Alzheimer's "include memory problems, word-finding difficulty, vision and spatial issues and off reasoning or judgment, according to the National Institute on Aging."

Government and Psychiatry

Just Eight ACA Co-Ops Will Still Be Open For Business This Fall.

[Kaiser Health News](#) (7/12, Galewitz) reports just eight of 23 co-ops begun under the Affordable Care Act in 2014 will take place in the fall enrollment. The remaining co-ops, all of which "posted annual losses in 2015, according to the National Alliance of State Health Co-ops," are focused on surviving. Some "are diversifying to serve larger employers," while others "are trying to renegotiate contracts with hospitals and other" healthcare professionals. According to the Alliance, the eight remaining co-ops "have about 400,000 members."

Many Eligible Toddlers Don't Get Medicaid Renewal At First Birthday.

[Kaiser Health News](#) (7/12, Andrews) reports that many toddlers covered by Medicaid or CHIP in their first year are "likely still eligible for coverage" after that but "fall through the cracks" due to a federal policy requiring "babies' eligibility be reevaluated on their first birthday." One reason is that the "review is pegged to their date of birth, which is generally different than the annual renewal date for other family members' coverage." Also, "states that don't seek babies' Social Security numbers until they turn 1 may have a tougher time getting the income and other data they need to process the renewal." Sometimes states "mistakenly ask for documentation proving the baby's citizenship," which is not a requirement when Medicaid or CHIP paid for the child's birth. Additionally, some computer systems automatically drop babies if a renewal isn't processed, and states can fall behind on renewals.

Psychiatric Medication Update

Experimental Postpartum Depression Medication Shows Encouraging Results In Mid-Stage Clinical Trial.

[USA Today](#) (7/12, Blumenthal) reports that Sage Therapeutics announced that patients in a mid-stage clinical trial of its experimental medication, SAGE-547, saw a statistically significant decrease in symptoms of postpartum depression compared to a placebo. Patients enrolled in the trial "needed to have had a major depressive episode that began no earlier than the third trimester and no later than the first four weeks following delivery." They also "needed to be less than six months postpartum at the time of enrollment."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/12, Steele, Subscription Publication) reports that there is currently no approved treatment for postpartum depression available on the US market. According to Sage, patients in the study saw a more than 20-point reduction in depression scores within 60 hours of

receiving treatment.

Also covering the story are the [AP](#) (7/12), [Reuters](#) (7/12, Grover), [Fierce Biotech](#) (7/12, Lawrence), the [Boston Business Journal](#) (7/12, Seiffert, Subscription Publication), [CNBC](#) (7/12, Lovelace Jr), and [Forbes](#) (7/12, Herper).

Other News

Testosterone Not Justified, Will Not Improve Cognitive Function In Relatively Healthy Older Men With Low Or Low To Normal Levels.

[Medscape](#) (7/12, Brooks) reports, "Prescribing testosterone to relatively healthy older men with low or low to normal testosterone levels does not improve cognitive function and is not justified," research indicates. The findings of the 280-patient [study](#) were published online July 1 in *The Lancet Diabetes and Endocrinology*. An accompanying [editorial](#) observed, "For older men with clinically normal cognitive function, low to low-to-normal serum total testosterone concentrations, and no known cause for hypogonadism, testosterone treatment is

not an elixir for the brain.”

Tuesday's Lead Stories

- **Despite Increases In Autism Treatment, Insurance Mandates Not Reaching Most Children With The Condition, Study Indicates.**
- **Physician Says Antidepressants Are “Reliable” In Severe And Mild Depression.**
- **Article Debunks Myths About Mental Illness.**

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