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Good morning Ms Cathy Thompson

August 26, 2016

Leading The News

Genes Associated With Autism May Often Differ Among Siblings.

[HealthDay](#) (8/25, Norton) reports, "In families that have more than one child with autism, the gene variations underlying each child's disorder often differ," researchers found after examining copy-number variants in some "1,500 families with at least one child who had autism." The [findings](#) were published online Aug. 25 in the American Journal of Human Genetics.

Psychiatric News Alert



[Metformin May Curb Weight Gain in Youth Taking Antipsychotics for Autism](#)

[New Model Found Useful for Predicting Alcohol Use in Youth](#)

Surgeon General's Campaign to End the Opioid Epidemic

Take the pledge, find resources to help

The U.S. Surgeon General took historic action yesterday by sending a personal letter to more than 2.3 million health care practitioners and public health leaders. He is seeking the assistance of physicians in addressing the prescription opioid crisis.

[Read his letter and learn how to join](#) with clinicians from across the country in a simple but powerful movement to end this epidemic.



Government and Psychiatry

ACA Premiums Are Lower In States That Expanded Medicaid, HHS Analysis Concludes.

The [New York Times](#) (8/25, Sanger-Katz, Subscription Publication) reports in "The Upshot" that for years, the Obama Administration has been urging states to expand Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act, and now, a new [study](#) conducted by HHS found that expansion could lower insurance premiums for states.

On its website, [CNBC](#) (8/25, Mangan) reports that the study revealed premiums for ACA plans sold through exchanges were about 7 percent lower in states that expanded Medicaid, compared to those which had not. The article says these findings are "based on a new analysis of 2015 HealthCare.gov premiums," and they were released "as news headlines highlight the fact that" ACA "premiums are on track to increase more sharply in 2017 than in prior years."

ACOs Helped Generate \$466 Million In Medicare Savings In 2015, CMS Says.

On its website, [CNBC](#) (8/25, Mangan) reports that according to CMS, hospitals, physicians "and other health" professionals "that agree to coordinate patient care as part of an" Affordable Care Act "program generated \$466 million in savings to the federal Medicare program in 2015." The agency said that overall, Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) have generated some \$1.29 billion in Medicare savings

since 2012.

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Psychiatry and Public Health

Tumblr Project Brings Mental Health Professionals, Users Together.

[Crain's New York Business](#) (8/25, Lewis) reports that New York-based blogging site Tumblr is "encouraging everyone from the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) to [New York City] first lady Chirlane McCray, an active Tumblr user, to engage with its dedicated user base in a space set aside to talk about mental health issues." A Tumblr spokeswoman said "advocates are posting 'a ton of content,' including research studies, resource links and videos on mental health issues, with the tag 'Post It Forward.'" Crain's explains that "Post It Forward" was launched in May 2015 and "was originally intended as a summerlong campaign, but it has evolved into a permanent page on the site."

Other News

US Surgeon General Urges Prescribers To Take Action To Stem Opioid Epidemic.

US Surgeon General Vivek Murthy appeared on [CBS This Morning](#) (8/25) to discuss America's opioid epidemic. He said that "this is one of our greatest public health threats and one that we have to respond to with speed and with urgency."

[CBS News](#) (8/25) reports online that "Dr. Murthy is taking the unprecedented step of mailing letters to the 2.3 million prescribers in America, urging them to...do three things." Murthy said, "Number one is to sharpen their prescribing practices, to make sure that we are treating pain safely and effectively. Number two, it's to connect people to treatment who need it, and right now we have a major treatment gap in this country that we have to close." He added that "the third is we're asking clinicians to help us change how our country thinks about addiction."

Murthy also spoke with [CNN](#) (8/25, Cohen), saying "he was inspired to write the letter after touring the country and learning that despite widespread media attention to the opioid overdose epidemic, many physicians still didn't realize how dangerous the drugs could be."

Thursday's Lead Stories

- [Overall Mental Health May Improve Until Very End Of Life, Researchers Say.](#)
- [Metformin May Help Youngsters With Autism With Antipsychotic-Related Weight Gain Slim Down, Small Study Suggests.](#)
- [Obama Administration Attempts To Quell Concerns About Premium Hikes For ACA Plans.](#)
- [Group Urges Pediatricians To Help Identify Teens At Risk For Suicide.](#)
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