

Insurance & HealthCare Tidings- 10th February, 2012

85 Percent of Insurers Outsource Some Element of Information Technology*

A new report by research and advisory firm Novarica, based on a survey of over 100 US insurer CIOs, finds that 85 percent are currently outsourcing at least some elements of IT, and between 25 and 35 percent are planning to increase their level of outsourcing in 2012.

*Source: <http://www.claimsjournal.com/news/national/2012/02/09/200654.htm>

Automating Claims Process Plays Critical Role in Expediting Reimbursement Process*

IVANS, Inc. a national health information exchange, announced results from a study that showed more than 93 percent of healthcare providers surveyed believe Medicare is fair either all or most of the time with claims reimbursements.

*Source: <http://www.claimsjournal.com/news/national/2012/02/08/200481.htm>

Workers' Comp Insurer Launches Narcotics Program for Injured Workers*

Accident Fund Holdings, Inc. recently created a comprehensive narcotics program to help reduce the health risks associated with narcotics and provide a mechanism for injured workers to return to work sooner.

*Source: <http://www.claimsjournal.com/news/national/2012/02/08/200492.htm>

P&C Insurers Expand Usage of Predictive Modeling*

Predictive modeling continues to gain momentum among North American property & casualty (P&C) insurers, according to findings from global professional services company Towers Watson's third predictive modeling survey.

*Source: <http://www.claimsjournal.com/news/national/2012/02/06/200399.htm>

Brown County Commissioners was allegedly scammed \$150,000 through insurance fraud*

Brown County Commissioner Ralph Jennings said the amount the county lost in an alleged insurance scam was about \$150,000. The \$1 million that was originally reported was the amount allegedly lost from many companies located across Ohio who did business with Employer Benefit Services of Ohio, Jennings said. The alleged scam or negligence was accomplished by a family which operated a third-party insurance claim service, he said.

*Source: [http://www.claimspages.com/news/brown-county-commissioners-was-allegedly-scammed-\\$150000-through-insurance-fraud/](http://www.claimspages.com/news/brown-county-commissioners-was-allegedly-scammed-$150000-through-insurance-fraud/)

Banks Still Face Legal Claims After \$25 Billion Settlement*

A landmark \$25 billion settlement over foreclosure abuses will allow large banks to resolve one piece of their mortgage-related problems. But it still leaves them exposed to a wide range of lawsuits and other claims related to the housing crisis.

*Source: <http://www.insurancejournal.com/news/national/2012/02/10/234940.htm>

Companies Partner to Offer New Elevator Insurance Program*

JM Associates/Burnham + Company, a division of Hub International Northeast, announced that The Hartford will now be the general liability carrier for its national elevator program. The new product will provide coverage for elevator clients, contractors, inspectors, consultants, distributors and manufacturers, with coverage enhancements for their general liability policies at competitive rates through The Hartford.

*Source: <http://www.insurancejournal.com/news/national/2012/02/09/234899.htm>

American Specialty Introduces Workers' Compensation Program*

American Specialty Insurance & Risk Services has launched a workers' compensation program that provides guaranteed cost coverage for the sports and entertainment industries. The company will target classes including motorsports, zoos and aquariums, venues, amateur sports, pari-mutuel racing, and casinos. The program is offered in most states, and can be accessed through American Specialty by independent agents and brokers.

*Source: <http://www.insurancejournal.com/news/national/2012/02/08/234706.htm>

Insential and American Safety Introduce Hospitality Program*

Insential and American Safety Insurance have joined to offer a comprehensive management liability program for the hospitality industry. The product offers employment practices, directors and officers and fiduciary liability coverage as either a package policy or standalone. It is available in all states except Connecticut.

*Source: <http://www.insurancejournal.com/news/national/2012/02/08/234696.htm>

Allstate Readies Homeowners Product for More States*

The insurer launched its new homeowner's product, House & Home, in Oklahoma in October 2011. It offered new discounts and more coverage and deductible options. It also made use of a simplified quoting process that leverages external sources to pre-fill application information.

*Source: <http://www.insurancejournal.com/news/national/2012/02/07/234514.htm>

EMC Insurance Rolls Out Data Compromise Product*

EMC Insurance Companies launched a new data compromise and identity recovery product at the start of February. The organization touts this as one of only a few products that offers this kind of coverage. The product was designed for small and midsize businesses and provides identity recovery for key individuals. It also includes cost mitigation for notification and potential legal action, reputational risk management and first- and third-party coverage.

*Source: <http://www.insurancejournal.com/news/national/2012/02/07/234476.htm>

Mercury Insurance Launches Commercial Auto Product*

Mercury Insurance has introduced a commercial auto product that offers agents a new point-of-sale system that makes it easy to rate, qualify and issue new business, as well as online service capabilities. The new product is being rolled out across the country. It includes the standard ISO coverage form.

*Source: <http://www.insurancejournal.com/news/national/2012/02/07/234467.htm>

Nationwide Adds Software Protection to Identity Theft Insurance*

Nationwide Insurance has extended its ID theft insurance coverage by providing help with protecting personal information on home computers. The carrier's newest product includes free access to software that helps thwart criminals from stealing information, even if they have virtual access to a customer's personal computer.

*Source: <http://www.insurancejournal.com/news/national/2012/02/06/234350.htm>

L&T Insurance ties up with women's group for micro-insurance*

L&T Insurance announced a strategic partnership with VimoSEWA, the national insurance cooperative promoted by the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA), for the distribution of micro-insurance products specially designed to cater to the diverse needs of women workers of the informal economy and their families.

*Source: <http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/industry-and-economy/banking/article2879999.ece>

ING Life Insurance launches 3 new plans*

ING Life Insurance has launched three new products in the traditional insurance space. According to the company, the new products are: ING Secured Income Insurance Plans, ING Star Life and ING Critical Illness Riders.

*Source: <http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/industry-and-economy/banking/article2879734.ece>

Bajaj Allianz launches illness plan for women*

Bajaj Allianz General Insurance has launched a critical illness plan for women, which covers eight major illnesses that they are prone to. The critical illnesses covered are breast cancer, fallopian tube cancer, uterine or cervical cancer, ovarian cancer, vaginal cancer, paralysis, multi trauma and burns, said a company press release.

*Source: <http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/industry-and-economy/banking/article2875958.ece>

Cloud computing in insurance sector growing*

Indian IT service companies, which have recently started improving their cloud offerings, will be cheered by a Gartner finding that shows potential for growth in the insurance sector.

*Source: <http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/industry-and-economy/info-tech/article2872229.ece>

Reliance Life launches new money-back plan*

Reliance Life Insurance Ltd is planning to engage young graduates and housewives to break into the rural and semi-urban markets. Unlike the traditional model of paying commission to insurance agents on the basis of business generated by them, Reliance Life plans to engage fresh graduates on a trainee basis on a fixed stipend to distribute its products.

*Source: <http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/industry-and-economy/banking/article2868896.ece>

Cholamandalam MS General floats family health insurance policy*

Cholamandalam MS General Insurance Co Ltd, a joint venture between the Murugappa Group and Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance group of Japan, has launched the Chola Family Floater Health line Insurance Policy offering hospitalization coverage for young and growing families.

*Source: <http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/industry-and-economy/banking/article2880060.ece>

Paperless insurance likely in a year*

You can expect your insurance transactions to be paperless in the next one year, thanks to an initiative by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority. "We are working on making insurance paperless and have short-listed about four data repositories, including National Securities Depository Ltd, for the purpose," Mr. J. Hari Narayan, Chairman, IRDA, told newsmen on the sidelines of a roundtable on distribution in insurance organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry.

*Source: <http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/industry-and-economy/banking/article2879987.ece>

Cellnovo launches cellular-enabled insulin pump*

London-based Cellnovo commercially launched its cellular-enabled diabetes management system and insulin pump in the UK. The company also launched a usability trial of its offering with 100 patients who have type I diabetes. The study will take place at “ten of the leading diabetes centers across the UK” according to the company and it will include patients who are both adults and children. The device already has a CE Mark but has not yet secured FDA 510(k) clearance.

*Source: <http://mobihealthnews.com/page/1/>

Qualcomm Life invests in AirStrip Technologies*

AirStrip Technologies announced a strategic investment from Qualcomm’s recently announced Qualcomm Life Fund. Terms of the investment were not disclosed.

*Source: <http://mobihealthnews.com/page/2/>

Nuance looks to shift mobile data processing to cloud*

Nuance Communications drew big crowds to its booth at the 2010 HIMSS conference when it introduced long-awaited mobile versions of its popular Dragon Medical Mobile Recorder and Dragon Medical Search speech recognition software, in the form of iPhone apps. Nearly two years later, the Burlington, Mass.-based software vendor continues to build its mobile healthcare portfolio.

*Source: <http://mobihealthnews.com/page/2/>

iHeal device aims to prevent substance abuse relapses*

The promise of some wireless-enabled remote patient monitoring devices is that they can help prevent heart failure episodes. They aim to reduce hospital readmissions. A new device currently being developed by a team of academics here in Massachusetts aims to do the same thing for drug addiction relapses. After 30 days in a substance abuse clinic, can a remote monitoring device help patients once they re-enter the real world? The iHeal device aims to do just that.

*Source: <http://mobihealthnews.com/page/2/>

UPMC center showcases ‘virtualization’ of healthcare*

The long-awaited boom in home-based, wireless health monitoring devices might happen sooner rather than later. In fact, Dr. Andrew Watson, medical director of the UPMC Center for Connected Medicine in Pittsburgh, believes that it will start in the next six to 12 months.

*Source: <http://mobihealthnews.com/page/2/>

iPad app aims to streamline Medicare enrollment*

A new iPad app intended for use by in-field Medicare sales agents aims to make the Medicare enrollment process more efficient by cutting down on paperwork, costs, and processing time. The app, called the iPad Mobile Field Enrollment app, was developed by DRX. The company already has plans to license the app to seven health plan carriers.

*Source: <http://mobihealthnews.com/page/2/>

EMR for urologists goes mobile with iPhone app*

Among the many physician specialties, urologists seem to be one group that is very likely to be using a Smartphone. That was one of the conclusions that could be drawn from a survey published last year by Bulletin Healthcare, which found that only physician assistants, emergency room physicians, and cardiologists were more likely to use their mobile devices to keep up with industry news. Bulletin estimated that about 31 percent of urologists were likely to use their mobiles for this purpose, the same percentage as nephrologists.

*Source: <http://mobihealthnews.com/page/3/>

PerfectServe pockets \$10.9 million in funding*

Clinical communications services provider PerfectServe announce that it had raised \$10.9 million in its third round of funding. PJC Capital, the PE arm of Piper Jaffray led the round, which also included participation from new investors National Healthcare Services and CHV Capital. Return backers River Cities Capital Funds, Village Ventures, and Spring Mill Venture Partners also participated. CHV Capital is the strategic investment arm of the Indiana University Health System and National Healthcare Services is the strategic investment arm of the MemorialCare Health System.

*Source: <http://mobihealthnews.com/page/3/>

Healthrageous adds Telcare's cellular-enabled glucose meter*

Boston-based Healthrageous has inked a co-marketing deal with Telcare, developer of the FDA-cleared cellular-enabled Telcare Blood Glucose Meter (BGM), to integrate blood glucose readings collected from the device into Healthrageous' "personal health improvement" platform. The companies plan to market the combined offering to health plans and self-insured employers.

*Source: <http://mobihealthnews.com/page/3/>

Draft senate bill to ease telehealth licensure challenges*

At some point this Spring, and perhaps as early as April, Senator Tom Udall, a Democrat from New Mexico, plans to introduce a bill that would help ease some of the biggest barriers currently facing telehealth. The expected bill, which is still being drafted, would streamline licensure portability for physicians and make it easier for them to practice telemedicine in more than one state.

*Source: <http://mobihealthnews.com/page/3/>

CardioComm enters mobile cardiac telemetry market*

CardioComm Solutions and TZ Medical inked a device integration and distribution deal that brings the pair into the mobile cardiac telemetry (MCT) electrocardiographic (ECG) and arrhythmia management market. CardioComm will integrate TZM's Aera CT MCT monitor into its GEMS software to create a new offering called GEMS Aera CT. It will be an extension of CardioComm's GEMS Air, a global ECG management offering.

*Source: <http://mobihealthnews.com/page/3/>

SMS health applications have been evaluated*

The Journal of Medical Internet Research recently published a research paper called, SMS Applications for Disease Prevention in Developing Countries, that found while there have been many text message-powered health initiatives, very few of them have been sufficiently evaluated.

*Source: <http://mobihealthnews.com/page/3/>

American Medical Association offers weight loss app*

At the end of January the American Medical Association (AMA) offered up its second consumer facing Smartphone app: Weigh What Matters. The free app, which is available for Apple iOS and Android devices, aims to help people work with their physicians to set up health goals and track their progress toward meeting them. The app includes weight, diet, and activity goals and tracking mechanisms.

*Source: <http://mobihealthnews.com/page/4/>

NASA developing noninvasive Smartphone health sensor*

For a number of years now NASA Ames scientist Jing Li has been hard at work developing what Gizmodo recently called the "greatest phone accessory of all time." The tech publication had an exclusive look Li's gadget, a postage-sized chip with 32 nanosensor bars, each made up of a different nano-structure material that can respond to different chemicals in different ways. The chip requires about 5 milliwatts of power so it can run for 8 continuous hours on a single charge when connected to a Smartphone. Gizmodo strongly suggests the device is designed to connect to Apple's iPhone and may not be too far away from commercialization.

*Source: <http://mobihealthnews.com/page/4/>

Next generation health IT is not anchored to a desk*

Health Evolution Partners, the healthcare investment firm started by former US National Health Information Technology Coordinator Dr. David Brailer, has partnered with Verizon to identify and work with promising mobile health, telemedicine,

and health data management companies. Health Evolution Partners (HEP) has indirectly invested in a number of mobile health and connected health companies that provide real-time location services for healthcare facilities, mobile-enabled medication management workflow platforms, Smartphone-based e-prescribing services, tablet-enabled remote patient visits — just to name a few.

*Source: <http://mobihealthnews.com/page/4/>

TigerText nabs \$8.2 million to secure health text messages*

TigerText, which offers secure mobile messaging to healthcare companies, announced an \$8.2 million round of funding led by Easton Capital and New Science Ventures. This second round of funding brings the company's total backing to more than \$10 million.

*Source: <http://mobihealthnews.com/page/4/>

Humana Expects 200,000 More Medicare Members in 2012*

Humana Inc posted a big rise in fourth-quarter earnings that was generally in line with analysts' targets, helped by higher membership in its Medicare plans for the elderly, and the health insurer slightly lifted its full-year profit forecast.

*Source: <http://www.insurancetech.com/management-strategies/232600294>

AXA, ACE Slug It Out for HSBC Insurance Arm*

France's AXA and U.S. insurer ACE are the final two suitors in the hunt to buy HSBC's \$1 billion general insurance business, people familiar with the matter said. HSBC, Europe's biggest bank, started the sale of the unit in September as part of its retreat from areas where it lacks scale or profitability is too low.

*Source: <http://www.insurancetech.com/articles/232600587>

Coventry Launches iPad Enrollment Platform from DRX*

Coventry Health Care (Bethesda, Md.) says it decreased application processing by one full day by piloting the DRX (Los Angeles) iPad Mobile Field Enrollment application with its Medicare clients.

*Source: <http://www.insurancetech.com/distribution/232600487>

SelectHealth Picks Landacorp Suite for Care Management*

Salt Lake City, Utah-based nonprofit health insurer SelectHealth, a division of Intermountain Healthcare, has selected the CareRadius health management suite from Chico, Calif.-based Landacorp.

*Source: <http://www.insurancetech.com/policy-administration/232600485>

Assurant Launches Claims App for iPhone, Android*

Atlanta-based specialty insurer Assurant has released the MyClaim mobile app for iOS and Android devices. Customers with electronics or appliances covered by an Assurant extended service contract can view that contract's information, as well as track any claims or service appointments, through the app.

*Source: <http://www.insurancetech.com/claims/232600316>

UnitedHealth Group Lawsuit Advances*

In 2009, UnitedHealth Group agreed to settle for \$350 million a lawsuit the American Medical Association filed charging the insurer with underpaying for out-of-network services. Now, a federal judge has issued rulings to release \$200 million to settle claims that physicians filed against UnitedHealth.

*Source: <http://www.insurancenetworking.com/news/UnitedHealth-lawsuit-claims-29892-1.html>

Many Insurance CFOs Planning Acquisitions in the Next Year*

Many P&C and life insurance CFOs will turn their collective attention from internal concerns and focus on M&A in the coming year, according to two recent Towers Watson surveys—"Life Insurance CFO M&A Survey" and "P&C Insurance CFO M&A Survey."

*Source: <http://www.insurancenetworking.com/news/towers-watson-insurance-mergers-acquisitions-29874-1.html>

New Consumer Insurance Forms to Start in September*

The Obama administration released finalized new rules for how health insurers describe what their plans cover, and told insurers that they have until September to prepare the documents for the new open enrollment season.

*Source: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970203646004577213590601648190.html?KEYWORDS=insurance>

Humana Net Up 86%*

Humana Inc.'s fourth-quarter earnings rose 86% amid an ongoing trend of rising membership and patients using health services lightly, and the company expects to continue bulking up by adding more senior customers this year.

*Source: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970204369404577206661873692778.html?KEYWORDS=insurance>

Fidelity National to Acquire Rest of O'Charley's*

Title insurer Fidelity National Financial Inc. agreed to buy restaurant company O'Charley's Inc. in a deal that values O'Charley's stock about 42% higher a share than its price.

*Source: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970204136404577207422681153112.html?KEYWORDS=insurance>

SF doctor, 4 others charged in Medicare fraud*

A San Francisco physician and the owners of two medical supply companies have been charged with defrauding Medicare out of \$1.2 million in bills for power wheelchairs that patients didn't need.

*Source: <http://www.medicarenews.net/sf-doctor-4-others-charged-in-medicare-fraud-2-02-2012.htm>

Hospital exec held in \$116M Medicare scam*

Hospital exec held in \$116M Medicare scam Houston Chronicle Copyright 2012 Houston Chronicle. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed. The assistant administrator of Riverside General Hospital was arrested in connection with more than \$100 million in mental health clinic claims.

*Source: <http://www.medicarenews.net/hospital-exec-held-in-116m-medicare-scam-02-2012.htm>

Medicare model expansion could save U.S. health care*

In considering the complex nature of health care, the two basic components that make up its function are quality and affordability. Quality of U.S. health care could be improved but the burning issues are access and affordability.

*Source: <http://www.medicarenews.net/medicare-model-expansion-could-save-u-s-health-care-02-2012.htm>

Medicare's lower-cost drug use in Minnesota touted*

If Medicare beneficiaries across the country used low-cost medications at the same rate as some patients in Minnesota, the government insurance program and seniors would have saved \$4.5 billion during 2008 without any negative health effects.

*Source: <http://www.medicarenews.net/medicares-lower-cost-drug-use-in-minnesota-touted-02-2012.htm>

Medicare Adds Hospital Infection Rate Data to Hospital Compare Web Site*

Medicare's Hospital Compare now includes data about how often central line-associated bloodstream infections occur in U.S. hospital intensive care units.

*Source: <http://www.medicarenews.net/medicare-adds-hospital-infection-rate-data-to-hospital-compare-web-site-02-2012.htm>

Seniors can't opt out of Medicare*

A federal appeals court ruled that seniors who receive Social Security cannot reject their legal right to Medicare benefits, in a rare case of Americans suing to get out of a government entitlement.

*Source: <http://www.medicarenews.net/appeals-court-seniors-cant-opt-out-of-medicare-02-2012.htm>

Lower Medicare Advantage Premiums Attract Seniors*

Average premiums drop 7 percent, with low-cost pharmacy plans drawing millions of new senior consumers.

*Source: <http://www.medicarenews.net/lower-medicare-advantage-premiums-attract-seniors-02-2012.htm>
