

Insurance & HealthCare Tidings- 20th January, 2012

Hospital Industry Commercial Claims Up*

There has been a rise in the hospital industry's professional liability claims frequency and severity, according to a new benchmarking report on professional liability claims trends in the hospital industry. The study, conducted by Zurich, a property and casualty insurance provider globally and in North America, is based on Zurich's claims data (through 2008, the latest information available) of 343,000 non-zero claims and \$27 billion undeveloped losses from approximately 1,150 hospitals nationally.

*Source: <http://www.claimspages.com/news/hospital-industry-commercial-claims-up/>

Settlements in Louisville Zoo Train Derailment Top \$500K*

Louisville Metro Government has paid more than \$525,000 to settle 23 claims stemming from a train derailment at the Louisville Zoo in 2009. The city has spent another \$176,000 in legal fees in defending the lawsuits. The accident sent 22 people to hospitals after the open-air train flipped onto its side. So far in January, the city has paid \$150,000 to settle seven claims, according to The Courier-Journal of Louisville. The newspaper cited records provided under the Kentucky Open Records Act. Six more claims are pending from those who aboard the train.

*Source: [http://www.claimspages.com/news/settlements-in-louisville-zoo-train-derailment-top-\\$500k/](http://www.claimspages.com/news/settlements-in-louisville-zoo-train-derailment-top-$500k/)

Workers' Comp Fraud Scheme Costs Texas Business \$149K*

Texas Mutual Insurance Company reported that Granbury Contracting & Utilities, Inc. of Granbury, Texas pled guilty to workers' compensation fraud-related charges. A Travis County district court ordered the company to pay \$149,000 in restitution to Texas Mutual. Granbury Contracting & Utilities, Inc., owned by Wayne Wienecke, obtained workers' compensation coverage through Texas Mutual from November 2003 to April 2008. During that time, Granbury Contracting & Utilities, Inc. misrepresented numbers of employees and payroll to Texas Mutual.

*Source: [http://www.claimspages.com/news/workers-comp-fraud-scheme-costs-texas-business-\\$149k/](http://www.claimspages.com/news/workers-comp-fraud-scheme-costs-texas-business-$149k/)

Costs per claim show fastest growth in 16-state WCRI study*

The Massachusetts-based Workers Compensation Research Institute said a variety of factors likely caused the increases. "Louisiana workers were off the job longer than in other wage-loss study states, the major factor in higher-than-typical indemnity benefits per claims," the report says. "The total indemnity benefit per claim received by the average worker was higher than in other states, even though the workers' weekly benefits were capped at lower levels in Louisiana than in other states."

*Source: <http://www.claimspages.com/news/louisiana-costs-per-claim-show-fastest-growth-in-16-state-wcri-study/>

Fireman's Fund Insurance Company Expands Entertainment Division*

Fireman's Fund Insurance Company announces the appointment of two entertainment veterans with extensive agency, risk management, and claims experience. Terry Rybicki has been named the new head of Entertainment Distribution and Agency Management. Rybicki, a Fireman's Fund veteran, will have overall responsibility for agent and broker relationships and will be solely dedicated to the Entertainment business with national responsibilities. Terry brings over 15 years of P&C sales leadership experience with a record of success in sales growth and profit contributions.

*Source: <http://www.claimsjournal.com/news/national/2012/01/20/199201.htm>

Trimble Partners With Great American Insurance to Automate Crop Reporting*

Trimble announced a strategic alliance with Great American Insurance Group to help farmers automate their crop insurance reporting under the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Federal Crop Insurance Program. The new recordkeeping system makes it possible for Farm Works users to submit their crop insurance records electronically to Great American Insurance Group. The time-saving solution makes it simple for farmers to transfer planting and harvest data directly to the Great American Insurance Group systems from their Farm Works Mapping software.

*Source: <http://www.claimsjournal.com/news/national/2012/01/18/199022.htm>

XL Adds Excess Auto to E&S Insurance Offering*

The insurance segment of XL Group plc added excess auto to its Excess & Surplus (E&S) product offerings and hired Michael Gramm to manage the new product line. Mr. Gramm joins as vice president – excess auto and will be based in Chicago, reporting to Roxanne Mitchell, President of XL's E&S unit.

*Source: <http://www.claimsjournal.com/news/national/2012/01/17/198971.htm>

Crawford & Company Appoints New Global Technical Services Leadership in U.S.*

Crawford & Company, an Atlanta-based independent provider of claims management services, has named claims executive Terry Hunt to the newly created position of chief executive officer of Crawford Global Technical Services (GTS) in the United States. In addition, Richard Lafayette, managing director for GTS in the southeast and an executive general adjuster, has been named to the newly created position of chief technical officer for GTS, reporting to Hunt.

*Source: <http://www.claimsjournal.com/news/national/2012/01/17/198968.htm>

General Star Launches Accountants Professional Liability Program*

General Star Management Company announced its Accountants Professional Liability program. Effective January 28th, the product will be offered through Pearl Insurance, headquartered in Peoria, Illinois and the program administrator for this new facility. Together, they will provide accounting professionals with customized professional liability insurance solutions in 28 states. The program is written on an admitted basis and expansion into additional states is anticipated.

*Source: <http://www.claimsjournal.com/news/national/2012/01/13/198823.htm>

Focus on New Products, Countries*

Global economic challenges will make it difficult for insurers to generate growth and profits over the short and long term, however, they might improve their chances for achieving success in 2012 by focusing on new insurance products and on emerging markets in China, India and Brazil.

*Source: <http://www.insurancejournal.com/news/national/2012/01/18/231495.htm>

Insiders' Advice on Filing Auto Claims*

The Consumer Federation of America, a Washington, D.C.-based group whose insurance division is directed by consumer advocate J. Robert Hunter, recently published a guide with "insiders' advice" on filing a successful auto insurance claim, collecting a fair settlement, and dealing with adjusters.

*Source: <http://www.insurancejournal.com/news/national/2012/01/20/231722.htm>

Healthcare Individual Mandate Too Weak*

Wall Street's concern about the U.S. Supreme Court's looming decision on President Obama's healthcare overhaul is overblown because the provision at the heart of the law already has little teeth, the top executive at Aetna Inc. said. The court in March will hear arguments on the part of the law that requires Americans buy insurance or pay a penalty, known as the individual mandate. A ruling is expected by the end of June, 2012.

*Source: <http://www.insurancejournal.com/news/national/2012/01/19/231693.htm>

Group Urges Obama to Address Flood Insurance in State of Union Address*

A coalition of business and environmental groups is calling on President Obama to use his upcoming State of the Union address to urge Congress to reform the nation's debt-ridden flood insurance program. The U.S. House of Representatives has passed a bill that makes a number of reforms that promise to put the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) on better financial footing, and the U.S. Senate Banking Committee approved a similar bill in September.

*Source: <http://www.insurancejournal.com/news/national/2012/01/19/231727.htm>

Medicare fraud case fiasco*

THE FEDS have decided on the eve of trial to drop criminal charges against six elderly patrons of a Medicare mill in Brooklyn whose arrests were trumpeted by top officials of the Obama administration, the Daily News has learned. Lawyers for the ailing geezers received the stunning news from a prosecutor.

*Source: <http://www.medicarenews.net/medicare-fraud-case-fiasco-01-2012.htm>

Medicare savings ideas have missed the mark*

There's some bad news for those looking for easy ways to trim Medicare spending. The Congressional Budget Office says two major approaches tested in recent years mostly failed to reduce spending.

*Source: <http://www.medicarenews.net/medicare-savings-ideas-have-missed-the-mark-01-2012.htm>

Medicare Vouchers Explained*

In the Republican presidential debate, Mitt Romney came out in favor of a “premium support program, which allows people to buy either current standard Medicare or a private plan.”

*Source: <http://www.medicarenews.net/medicare-vouchers-explained-01-2012.htm>

Medicare fail*

The Congressional Budget Office has some disappointing news: Two decades worth of experiments to bring down Medicare costs have not worked very well. The agency published result from 10 Medicare demonstrations that have piloted new ways to coordinate care and tie provider payment to quality.

*Source: <http://www.medicarenews.net/medicare-fail-01-2012.htm>

UPMC refunds Medicare charges*

Federal officials say UPMC health system overcharged Medicare \$26,547 when it incorrectly billed patients who had been to a Pittsburgh hospital, sent home and then returned the same day as new admissions on their second visit.

*Source: <http://www.medicarenews.net/upmc-refunds-medicare-charges-01-2012.htm>

Benchmarks for Medicare accountable care organizations*

The Medicare accountable care organizations won't be judged solely on how much money they save. The quality of care they provide patients also will be judged against national benchmarks.

*Source: <http://www.medicarenews.net/benchmarks-for-medicare-accountable-care-organizations-01-2012.htm>

Attacks on Social Security*

For three decades, conservatives' proposals for dramatic changes to the programs have reflected a divide-and-conquer strategy inspired by the Leninist movement. About the last thing you'd ever expect is for conservatives to draw procedural lessons from the founder of the Soviet state. So it's fascinating to ponder the persistence of an attack on Social Security that was explicitly billed.

*Source: <http://www.medicarenews.net/attacks-on-social-security-medicare-borrow-a-strategy-from-lenin-01-2012.htm>

IRDA asks agent training institutes to register*

To eliminate non-serious players, the insurance regulator IRDA has asked all existing agent training institutes (ATIs) to get themselves registered either as a company or trust by June. “Existing accredited entities (ATIs), other than the companies/ societies, trusts, have to convert themselves into companies, societies or trusts within 6 months...,” the IRDA said in a circular.

*Source: <http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/industry-and-economy/banking/article2803586.ece>

Aviva sees market potential for insurance in North-east India*

Viewing the North-east region as a crucial market for potential growth, insurance major Aviva Life Insurance plans a foray into the rural markets to increase insurance penetration here. The industry has realized that there is growth potential in the region’s Tier 3 cities and the rural markets which are under penetrated till now, Aviva India Director (direct sales force) Mr. Munish Sharda told.

*Source: <http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/industry-and-economy/banking/article2798636.ece>

Unit-linked insurance plans fail to lure customers*

Unit-linked insurance plans are unable to attract the attention of investors as they did earlier, even in the present tax-savings season. The sales mix of private life insurer’s show that traditional, pure life products have almost choked the growth of unit-linked plans. Before the introduction of new regulatory norms about one-and-a-half-years ago, unit-linked plans were hot favorites of the investors, especially during November-March period when insurance is also purchased to save income-tax.

*Source: <http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/industry-and-economy/banking/article2814814.ece>

Nasscom partners Oriental Insurance to roll out health plans for members*

Software association Nasscom has partnered with Oriental Insurance Co Ltd to introduce a common health insurance programme for all its members. The alliance will enable Nasscom member companies – particularly its 700-plus Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) members - to offer cost-effective health insurance plans for their employees.

*Source: <http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/industry-and-economy/info-tech/article2814691.ece>

Nippon Life Insurance picks 26% stake in Reliance Capital Asset for Rs 1,450 crore*

Reliance Capital Asset Management has sold 26 per cent stake to Nippon Life Insurance Company in a deal signed in Mumbai for Rs 1,450 crore. This values the company at Rs 5,600 crore. According to BL Research Bureau data, at Rs 1,450 crore for a 26 per cent stake, the deal values Reliance Mutual Fund at 6.8 per cent of its assets under management (as of December 2011 quarter).

*Source: <http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/industry-and-economy/banking/article2814041.ece>

Bharti AXA looking to grow health insurance business*

In a de-tariffed scenario, Bharti AXA General Insurance will focus more on retail business than commercial lines, its CEO and Managing Director, Dr Amarnath Ananthanarayanan, said. The company grew its gross written premium 47 per cent in 2011 to Rs 776 crore. It sold over 6.5 lakh policies and settled over 1.2 lakh claims during the year, he said.

*Source: <http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/industry-and-economy/banking/article2811723.ece>

Apollo Munich launches Optima Restore*

Apollo Munich Health Insurance has recently launched a unique health/mediclaim plan with Restore benefit. This restore benefit will automatically reinstate the basic sum assured in case it is exhausted during the policy term. The benefit to restore the sum assured will be given free of any additional cost. Definitely the premium will be higher compared to normal mediclaim plans. You need to compare the same before finalizing the product. The plan is a first of its kind giving restore benefit. The plans which are available till now don't pay you anything above sum assured during one year after you exhaust the basic sum assured. This plan gives the additional benefit as it restores the sum assured again and can be utilized for any other illness or in case of any member of the family if it is family floater.

*Source: http://www.moneycontrol.com/news/health-insurance/optima-restore-a-unique-health-planapollo-munich_652798.html

Prudential Reaches Deal with 20 States on Death Benefit Cross-Reference*

Prudential Financial will more closely cross-reference its policy database with public death records under a deal with 20 states that resolves a controversy over unpaid claims. The office of Massachusetts Treasurer Steven Grossman announced the deal. It did not list the 20 states that were party to the agreement.

*Source: <http://www.insurancetech.com/regulation/232400341>

28 US States Took Steps on Health Insurance Exchanges*

The Obama administration said that 28 U.S. states have taken steps to establish insurance exchanges under the 2010 healthcare law, despite the legal and political uncertainties threatening the overhaul. Fourteen states, including several led by Republican governors, have enacted legislation or already have the authority in place to set up the regulated insurance markets that are a key segment of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, according to a report by the Department of Health and Human Services.

*Source: <http://www.insurancetech.com/regulation/232500130>

UnitedHealth Profit Tops Views as Enrollment Rises*

UnitedHealth Group Inc posted a higher-than-expected fourth-quarter profit, helped by increased membership across its array of health plans. The largest U.S. health insurer by market value also backed its 2012 earnings forecast, which includes the potential for a decline in profit but which many analysts have seen as conservative. Shares rose 1.4 percent.

*Source: <http://www.insurancetech.com/management-strategies/232500129>

Oracle Debuts Rules-Based, Configurable Health Insurance Claims System*

Oracle has introduced Oracle Insurance Claims Adjudication for Health, which the vendor describes as a highly configurable, rules-driven claims system that helps health insurers to reduce administrative costs and increase member and provider satisfaction.

*Source: <http://www.insurancetech.com/claims/232500043>

Great American Adopts Regulatory Compliance Software*

Cincinnati-based Great American Insurance Group has selected Comply On Demand Enterprise (CODE) from Pittsburgh-based Compliance Assurance Corporation (CAC) to manage regulatory compliance within its specialty P&C, annuity and supplemental health lines of business. CODE is a web-based system that CAC says uses analytics to identify where regulations apply to the insurance business.

*Source: <http://www.insurancetech.com/regulation/232400464>

AXA Taps Detica NetReveal For Fraud Prevention*

AXA (Paris) has chosen to use BAE Systems Detica's (London) NetReveal insurance claims fraud prevention services as its insurance operations' single solution. Detica NetReveal reduces the risk of fraudulent customer claims and improves investigation times for personal and commercial auto and property lines of business, according to the vendor.

*Source: <http://www.insurancetech.com/claims/232400462>

AIA Plans Bid for ING's Asian Insurance Unit*

AIA Group Ltd, Asia's No.3 insurer and about one-third owned by American International Group Inc, may bid for the \$6 billion Asian insurance operations of ING Group, sources said, with the prospective sale expected to draw heavy interest from rivals. AIA, which was the crown jewel in bailed-out insurer AIG's global business, has invited four banks to pitch for advisory roles for a possible offer, two sources familiar with the process told Reuters. The sources declined to be identified as they were not authorized to speak to the media.

*Source: <http://www.insurancetech.com/management-strategies/232400428>

Reinsurers Shake Up C-Suite*

Economic issues that continue to affect the reinsurance industry may be a top priority for two reinsurers that have made changes to the highest-ranking corporate officer in charge of total management of their organizations. Announced this morning, Michel M. Liès has been appointed by Swiss Re's board of directors to the position of group chief executive officer, succeeding Stefan Lippe as CEO.

*Source: <http://www.insurancenetworking.com/news/Willis-re-swiss-ceo-hires-29757-1.html>

Billing System Activity Remains High for P&C Insurers*

Insurers continue to have a number of functionality and improved technology options when it comes to renewing or replacing billing systems, according to a new report from Celent. In an effort to help insurers refine their systems strategies and, where appropriate, create a list of appropriate vendors for evaluation, the research and consulting firm analyzed 13 systems for the report, "Stand-Alone Billing System Vendors."

*Source: <http://www.insurancenetworking.com/news/billing-celent-property-casualty-insurance-systems-29760-1.html>

Regulatory Issues for Insurers*

On both the federal and international levels, 2012 will be a profoundly important year in the realm of insurance regulation. Few people are likely more cognizant of this than Ben McKay, SVP of federal government relations for the Property Casualty Insurers Association of America (PCI). One of the primary battles McKay and other insurance industry advocates will fight is the ongoing implementation of the Dodd-Frank Act. The Financial Stability Oversight Council's (FSOC) work to finalize its rules regarding non-bank systemically important financial institutions (SIFIs) is of special concern to the industry.

*Source: <http://www.insurancenetworking.com/news/regulatory-reform-systemic-risk-flood-insurance-29761-1.html>

Insurers Aim For India*

When it comes to the insurance industry's emerging markets, they don't come much bigger than India. While this near limitless upside has enticed many insurers into the market, some serious obstacles remain, a new report from A.M. Best concludes. "Continued economic growth, an expanding middle class and heightened demand for health insurance are resulting in foreign insurers and reinsurers seeking to establish a greater presence in the country," the report states. "However, while the insurance sector offers prospects for growth, it is also characterized by challenges and frustrations."

*Source: <http://www.insurancenetworking.com/news/insurance-india-am-best-29729-1.html>

Hospital Industry Commercial Claims Up*

There has been a rise in the hospital industry's professional liability claims frequency and severity, according to a new benchmarking report on professional liability claims trends in the hospital industry. The study, conducted by Zurich, a property and casualty insurance provider globally and in North America, is based on Zurich's claims data (through 2008, the latest information available) of 343,000 non-zero claims and \$27 billion undeveloped losses from approximately 1,150 hospitals nationally.

*Source: <http://www.insurancenetworking.com/news/Claims-zurich-hospital-frequency-severity-29725-1.html>

Raising Medicare Age Would Save \$148 Billion*

The federal government could save \$148 billion over 10 years by increasing Medicare eligibility two years to age 67, the Congressional Budget Office reported. The projected savings are lower than CBO's March estimate of \$162 billion, but the earlier calculation did not include the premiums that seniors must pay into the program. A CBO official said that a senator requested the additional analysis of increasing the Medicare and Social Security eligibility ages.

*Source: <http://www.nationaljournal.com/healthcare/raising-medicare-age-would-save-148-billion-cbo-says-20120110>

HC of India notice to centre, insurance companies*

A petitioner has moved the judiciary alleging insurance companies illegally reject claims of common citizens to maximize profits. The Nagpur bench of Bombay High Court issued notices to the Union finance ministry, Insurance Regulatory Development Authority (IRDA) along with National Insurance Company, United India Insurance, New India Insurance and Oriental Insurance Company. A division bench comprising justices PB Majmudar and Ashok Bhangale asked respondents to file a reply in four weeks.

*Source: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/nagpur/HC-notice-to-centre-insurance-companies/articleshow/11545421.cms>

Bharti AXA General GWP grew by 47% to Rs 776 crore in 2011*

Private insurer Bharti AXA General Insurance said it saw a growth of 47 per cent growth in premium collection in 2011 at Rs 776 crore compared to 2010. The company's Gross Written Premium (GWP) for 2010 stood at Rs 528 crore, Bharti AXA General said in a statement here.

*Source: <http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/personal-finance/insurance/insurance-news/bharti-axa-general-gwp-grew-by-47-pc-to-rs-776-cr-in-2011/articleshow/11540034.cms>

Cigna TTK Health insurance planning expatriate insurance policy*

Now, Indians going abroad for a longer period can buy mediclaim and personal accident and for different countries. Cigna TTK Health insurance, which is in the process of applying for health insurance licence to the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority or Irda, is planning expatriate insurance policy.

*Source: <http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/personal-finance/insurance/insurance-news/cigna-ttk-health-insurance-planning-expatriate-insurance-policy/articleshow/11537307.cms>

Life insurers' income falls for first time in a decade; investor indifference to Ulip the main reason*

India's life insurers face the prospect of growth faltering this fiscal - for the first time since the opening up of the industry - as a combination of regulatory restrictions and investor indifference to unit-linked insurance products, or Ulip, hurt sales of what was once the industry's best-selling product. The slide in Ulip sales and a lack of pension products in the market have had an impact on the industry's total premium income, which has been negative year on year so far this financial year. "For the first time since the sector was opened up, the total (year-on-year) premium is negative," said SB Mathur, secretary

general, Life Insurance Council. "Very few Ulip products are selling. People are looking for guarantees," he said, summing up the state of the industry and investors

*Source: <http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/personal-finance/insurance/insurance-news/life-insurers-income-falls-for-first-time-in-a-decade-investor-indifference-to-ulip-the-main-reason/articleshow/11532911.cms>

Insurers add more features to woo auto buyers*

Stung by slowing automobile sales, general insurers are adding features to auto policies, including towing services, but with additional premium and conditions that may throw nasty surprises. But these are given selectively, mostly to new vehicles, that don't break down often so that the insurance providers do not end up with high claims. The amount that could be claimed will also be capped depending on the individual policy.

*Source: <http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/news-by-industry/auto/automobiles/insurers-like-oriental-insurance-bajaj-allianz-and-others-add-more-features-to-woo-auto-buyers/articleshow/11518658.cms>

UnitedHealth Rises 21% on Higher Enrollments, Optum Growth*

UnitedHealth Group Inc.'s fourth-quarter profit rose 21%, helped by growing health-insurance membership, signs of light health-care usage in some areas and fast-rising sales in the company's Optum health-services unit.

*Source: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970204616504577170421162791752.html?KEYWORDS=insurance>

Lloyds Pharmacies to sell Proteus smart pills, sensors*

UK-based retail pharmacy chain Lloydspharmacy has inked an exclusive deal with Proteus Biomedical to launch Proteus' first commercial product, Helius, an offering that includes sensor-enabled pills, a peel-and-stick sensor patch worn on the body, and a mobile health app. The patch records when a pill is ingested, tracks sleep patterns, and records physical activity levels. The Helius offering is based on Proteus' Raisin system, which secured a CE Mark and is expected to roll out commercially in other countries across Europe.

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

Investor: Health startups, forget about employers*

Skip Fleshman, a Managing Partner at Asset Management Ventures, shared a few tips for those mobile health startups looking to become more than just "one-trick pony" developers of successful apps. In order to capitalize on their real potential and become a long-term, viable business, Fleshman has a few lessons learned to share based on his firm's investments in a number of health startups, including, perhaps most notably, HealthTap and Proteus Biomedical.

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

How to secure tablets for healthcare*

The UK's National Health Service (NHS) Connecting for Health division recently published a guidance document for how healthcare providers in that country should and shouldn't be using tablet devices. The document is chock-full of warnings about tablet use in healthcare settings, but it also includes some helpful hints for how CIOs should secure the devices.

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

Each month 16.9M access health info via mobiles*

According to a new report from comScore, the number of people in the US who access health information from their mobile devices is on the rise. During the months of September, October, and November last year, an average of 16.9 million people used mobile phones to access health information. That number marks a 125 percent growth rate over the same three month period in the previous year. The research firm found that about 3 in 5 or 60 percent of the mobile health information seekers were under the age of 35.

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

Mobile health trends and challenges in 2012*

In a few weeks MobiHealthNews will host its first webinar of 2012, which will look at the trends that are set to dominate the year ahead. The online event, called 2012 Mobile Health Trends, will also include a sneak peek of what we expect to be the talk of the HIMSS 2012 event that takes place in Las Vegas in February.

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

Mass General Hospital deploys iPhones to nurses*

Following a research and test phase of Voalte's iPhone-based voice, alarm, and text communication offering, Massachusetts General Hospital has begun to deploy iPhones to nurses in its newest hospital facility, the Lunder Building. Voalte says its system went head-to-head with VoIP and badge-based communications technologies during the pilot phase at MGH.

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

Sharecare acquires Little Blue Book, raises \$14M*

This week Sharecare announced that it had raised \$14 million from Galen Partners and Tomorrow Ventures. The company has also acquired The Little Blue Book (TLBB) from Galen Partners and other investors in exchange for shares in Sharecare.

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

Pro athletes may hold key to wider patient engagement*

Want to empower consumers to improve healthcare and their own health status? Build a Tricorder and convince youngsters to “be like Mike.”

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

Mobile-enabled patient satisfaction survey startup nets \$750,000*

On The Spot Systems, a mobile phone-based survey provider announced this week that it had raised \$750,000 in seed financing from Kepha Partners, Angel Street Capital, and strategic investor Mike Sheehan. The company plans to use the funds to expand its business into the food industry, while building out its mobile data collection business for retail, healthcare, and service organizations.

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

NovaSom offers cellular-enabled home sleep test*

At the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) NovaSom, which makes home tests for obstructive sleep apnea (OSA) unveiled an FDA-cleared OSA test kit that leverages Verizon Wireless’ cellular network to wirelessly collect and transfer sleep data up to a cloud-based platform for physician interpretation and diagnosis. Last summer the company scooped up \$35 million in new funding.

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

7 percent of perfusionists said mobiles distracted them*

With all the recent talk of the dangers of smart phones distracting physicians and other healthcare workers, Clinical Advisor managed to dig up a survey that included some real numbers — even if they were based on a small sample size: A survey conducted in October 2010 and published in last September’s issue of the medical journal, Perfusion, found that 7 percent of those health professionals polled admitted to being personally distracted by their mobile phones while on the job.

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

Pharma’s mobile opportunity*

In recent months a number of deals, acquisitions, service and product launches have led to a growing discussion around the mobile health opportunities for pharma companies. There seem to be three big ones vying for the top.

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



Domain expertise just as critical as technology in healthcare*

Mobile and wireless health are trying hard to win over a public that at best is skeptical, but more likely has no idea what this stuff actually is.

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