

## Insurance & HealthCare Tidings- 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 2011

### **A Piecemeal Approach to Health Law in States\***

The Obama administration's surprise announcement that it planned to give states broad leeway to pick the benefits offered under the federal health care law offers yet another example of a gradualist approach to carrying out its signal domestic policy achievement.

\*Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2011/12/21/health/policy/obamas-piecemeal-approach-to-health-law-in-states.html>

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### **Working With Medicare\***

There are many ways to rein in Medicare spending without scrapping the system and starting over. Republicans are arguing that helping older and disabled Americans buy private insurance would be cheaper for the federal government and better for beneficiaries.

\*Source: [http://www.nytimes.com/2011/12/18/opinion/sunday/working-with-medicare.html?\\_r=1](http://www.nytimes.com/2011/12/18/opinion/sunday/working-with-medicare.html?_r=1)

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### **Come to Washington, D.C. and Protect Your Industry\***

Attend a one-of-a-kind legislative event for the independent agency system and educate members of Congress on issues important to you and your clients. The 2012 Big "I" Legislative Conference & Convention will be held April 25-27 at the Grand Hyatt Washington in Washington, D.C. Registration includes an in-depth issues briefing, a general session including a panel discussion with leading carrier CEOs and valuable networking opportunities.

\*Source:  
[http://www.iiaba.net/na/06\\_EventsConferences/02\\_AnnualConvention/NAV\\_ECAnnualConvention?ContentPreference=NA&ActiveState=0&ActiveTab=NA&ContentLevel1=EVTCONF&ContentLevel2=ECCONV](http://www.iiaba.net/na/06_EventsConferences/02_AnnualConvention/NAV_ECAnnualConvention?ContentPreference=NA&ActiveState=0&ActiveTab=NA&ContentLevel1=EVTCONF&ContentLevel2=ECCONV)

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### **Pennsylvanians Face Sinkhole Threat, But Many Lack Insurance Coverage\***

A U.S. senator is enlisting the help of Pennsylvania insurance commissioner to help protect the Keystone State's homeowners from sinkhole damages. In a letter to Pennsylvania Insurance Commissioner Michael Consedine, U.S. Senator Bob Casey (D-Penn.) asked that all new homeowners in the state be made aware that sinkhole insurance is not part of a standard homeowner's benefit in Pennsylvania. The lawmaker says homeowners should also be given specific information on how to purchase that insurance.

\*Source: <http://www.claimspages.com/news/>

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### **Company's failure to pay premium results in liability for worker's injury\***

A logging company contracted with a carrier for workers' compensation insurance coverage. After the policy period ended, the carrier executed an audit resulting in an invoice to the company for an additional payment for the policy period. The company also renewed the policy for the subsequent year. The carrier sent a notice of additional premium to supplement the

estimated premium the company paid for the subsequent year. The carrier then sent a notice canceling the policy for the company's failure to pay additional amounts on the policy.

\*Source: <http://www.claimspages.com/news/companys-failure-to-pay-premium-results-in-liability-for-workers-injury/>

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### **Nursing Claims Costs Rise Again After Falling\***

After a substantial dip in 2009, insurance claims in the nursing profession are costing more. The average total paid per claim is generally over \$200,000 but this had dropped to around \$150,000 two years ago. Now the number has jumped back up to nearly the 2008 level when they were at their highest, according to a new study by CNA.

\*Source: <http://www.claimsjournal.com/news/national/2011/12/20/197299.htm>

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### **Top Ten Strangest Contents Claims for 2010\***

Enservio, a provider of software and services to property insurance carriers and policyholders nationwide, inventories and assesses the value of millions of claimed items each year, using a proprietary database and analytics solution.

\*Source: <http://www.claimsjournal.com/news/national/2011/12/19/197199.htm>

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### **E-Trade, Insurers to Settle Class Action Lawsuit for \$79M\***

E-Trade Financial and its insurers have agreed in principle to pay \$79 million to settle class action lawsuits brought against the online brokerage as a result of losses in its mortgage and home equity loans portfolio in 2007. E-Trade was sued by investors who alleged the company violated securities law and breached its fiduciary duty to shareholders in relation to the massive losses it suffered following the collapse of the subprime mortgage market.

\*Source: <http://www.claimsjournal.com/news/national/2011/12/22/197500.htm>

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### **Aon Paying \$16.3M in Alleged Bribery Settlements\***

Insurance brokerage Aon has agreed to pay more than \$16 million to settle criminal and civil allegations that it bribed employees of government-owned companies and others in several countries between 1983 and 2007, U.S. authorities said.

The Justice Department and the Securities and Exchange Commission announced separate agreements with the Chicago company. Aon Corp. is paying \$14.5 million in restitution and interest to settle the SEC's civil charges and a \$1.76 million criminal fine in an agreement with the Justice Department.

\*Source: <http://www.claimsjournal.com/news/national/2011/12/22/197481.htm>

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### **York Risk Services Group Acquires Avivent\***

York Risk Services Group (York), a national provider of claims-management, specialized loss adjusting, insurance pool administration and other insurance services, announced the acquisition of Dublin, Ohio-based Avivent. The terms of the acquisition were not disclosed. Avivent, a national third party administrator, provides claims management services, managed care services, alternative risk financing options and a variety of loss control services to clients ranging from public entities, self-insured clients and carriers.

\*Source: <http://www.claimsjournal.com/news/national/2011/12/21/197378.htm>

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### **Wharton Study Analyzes Potential for Private Insurers to Offer Flood Insurance\***

The Wharton Risk Management and Decision Processes Center at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania released a study that analyzes the role private insurance companies could play in offering residential flood insurance.

The year 2011 was the most costly year for natural disasters worldwide (\$350 billion); in the U.S. alone, there were nearly 100 Presidential disaster declarations, two-thirds of which were from hurricanes and floods.

\*Source: <http://www.claimsjournal.com/news/national/2011/12/20/197292.htm>

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### **Distracted Driving Stems From More Than Cell Phone Use, Insurers Say\***

Using a cell phone while driving is not the only distraction leading to automobile crashes, says a group of insurance carriers. While the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board's (NTSB) call for a national ban on cell phone use while driving brings needed attention to the issue, the discussion should focus on how to reduce all forms of distracted driving, according to the Property Casualty Insurers Association of America (PCI).

\*Source: <http://www.insurancejournal.com/news/national/2011/12/16/227741.htm>

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### **Esurance Debuts First Ad Campaign Since Being Bought by Allstate\***

Esurance, the online car insurance company now owned by Allstate, has launched a new ad campaign around the concept, "Insurance for the Modern World. The campaign – which includes television, cinema, in-flight, online video and streaming radio among other media – will debut on CBS.

\*Source: <http://www.insurancejournal.com/news/national/2011/12/22/228631.htm>

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### **Ironshore Names Boren Head of U.S. Field Operations\***

Specialty insurer Ironshore Inc. has appointed Joseph L. Boren as executive vice president of Ironshore Insurance Holdings, LLC and as president of U.S. Field Operations. John O'Brien, currently president of Ironshore Environmental, has been named as that unit's chief executive officer, assuming responsibility from Boren, who held that position for three years.

\*Source: <http://www.insurancejournal.com/news/national/2011/12/22/228572.htm>

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### **Best Affirms Ratings of Beazley Insurance Company, Inc.\***

A.M. Best Co. has affirmed the financial strength rating of 'A' (Excellent) and issuer credit rating of "a" of Beazley Insurance Company, Inc. (BICI), which is based in Farmington, Conn. The outlook for both ratings is stable. These ratings reflect BICI's "solid stand-alone risk-adjusted capitalization, in addition to the extensive explicit support provided through quota share reinsurance agreements with Lloyd's Syndicate 3623, which is managed by Beazley plc, Best explained. "BICI also benefits from third party credit risk protection provided by Beazley. Given the explicit support in place, BICI receives partial rating enhancement.

\*Source: <http://www.insurancejournal.com/news/national/2011/12/22/228513.htm>

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### **State Insurance Regulators Name 28 Consumer Representatives\***

State insurance regulators have named 28 consumer representatives to advise them on insurance issues during 2012. The National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) said the 18 funded and 10 unfunded consumer representatives begin their terms Jan. 1, 2012.

\*Source: <http://www.insurancejournal.com/news/national/2011/12/21/228394.htm>

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### **Supreme Court Schedules Obama Healthcare Arguments\***

Oral arguments on President Barack Obama's sweeping U.S. healthcare overhaul will last 5-1/2 hours spread over three days from March 26-28, the Supreme Court said. The Supreme Court last month agreed to hear the 5-1/2 hours of oral arguments, one of the lengthiest arguments in recent years. There have been similar marathon sessions in a handful of big cases dating back over the past 70 years.

\*Source: <http://www.insurancejournal.com/news/national/2011/12/19/228089.htm>

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### **Deficit Poses the Biggest Threat to U.S. Healthcare\***

A mounting U.S. deficit could pose a much greater threat to the survival of President Barack Obama's healthcare reforms than either the Supreme Court or 2012 elections. Many health experts say innovations in delivering medical care and the creation of state health insurance exchanges for extending coverage to the uninsured are likely to continue in some form even if Obama's 2010 Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act is struck down or repealed.

\*Source: <http://www.insurancejournal.com/news/national/2011/12/19/227978.htm>

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### **Moody's Corp. Acquires Barrie & Hibbert\***

Moody's Corp. has acquired Barrie & Hibbert Limited, a provider of risk management modeling tools for insurance companies worldwide. The acquisition broadens Moody's Analytics suite of software solutions for the insurance and pension sectors. In

addition, Barrie & Hibbert's offerings will enhance Moody's data management, capital calculation and regulatory reporting platform to further meet the needs of institutions as they undertake risk management and regulatory compliance activities.

\*Source: <http://www.insurancejournal.com/news/national/2011/12/19/227975.htm>

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### **OPIC Offers New Political Risk Insurance\***

The Overseas Private Investment Corp. (OPIC) has arranged new political risk insurance for private equity fund investments in emerging markets. OPIC, the U.S. government's development finance institution sees investor prospect growing much faster in the emerging markets than developed markets now. This product will offer coverage for these challenging regions, including the Middle East and Africa.

\*Source: <http://www.insurancejournal.com/news/national/2011/12/19/227952.htm>

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### **U.S. Healthcare Law Keeps More Young Adults Insured\***

U.S. healthcare reforms have enabled 2.5 million young adults to join or remain in their parents' health insurance plans, the U.S. government said, up from 1 million reported earlier this year. Federal officials fully credited the gains to the Affordable Care Act, legislation championed by President Barack Obama that took effect last year and is deemed the biggest overhaul of the U.S. healthcare system in nearly 50 years.

\*Source: <http://www.insurancejournal.com/news/national/2011/12/16/227749.htm>

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### **Medicare And Private Insurance Spending Similar Throughout Texas\***

Variations in health care spending by Medicare and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas (BCBSTX) are similar throughout the state despite previous research, which found significant spending differences between the private and commercial sector in McAllen, Texas. The latest research results from The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth), the Commonwealth Fund, and the Brookings Institution are published in The American Journal of Managed Care's December web exclusive issue.

\*Source: <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/releases/239528.php>

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### **The Academy Of Nutrition And Dietetics Advocates For Expanded Nutritional Coverage Under Medicare\***

The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics has prepared a request to submit to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to expand coverage of medical nutrition therapy (MNT) for specific diseases, including hypertension, obesity, and cancer, as part of the CMS National Coverage Determination (NCD) Process. Most chronic health conditions can be controlled or treated with medical nutrition therapy, yet Medicare will only reimburse nutrition therapy services provided by a registered dietitian for individuals with diabetes and renal disease. "That's just not enough if we want to improve the health of the nation and rein in escalating healthcare costs," says Marsha Schofield, MS, RD, LD, the Academy's Director of Nutrition Services Coverage.

\*Source: <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/releases/239501.php>

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### **Overall Hospital Admission Rates In US Linked With High Rates Of Readmission\***

High hospital readmission rates in different regions of the U.S. may have more to do with the overall high use of hospital services in those regions than with the severity of patients' particular conditions or problems in the quality of care during and after hospital discharges, according to a new study from researchers at Harvard School of Public Health (HSPH).

\*Source: <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/releases/239226.php>

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### **Health insurance portability slowly catching on\***

Medical insurance portability is two-months old now, but it is off to a slow start. Mr. Sanjay Datta, head-underwriting and claims, ICICI Lombard General speaks to Business Line in an interview on the nuances of health insurance portability.

\*Source: <http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/features/article2738211.ece>

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### **Global regulators prepare supervisory framework to prevent Lehman-like collapses\***

Global banking, securities and insurance regulators have proposed a framework for supervising financial conglomerates to ward off a Lehman-like crisis. For example, the framework discusses techniques for the detection and correction of double or multiple gearing, where the same capital is used as a risk buffer for two or more legal entities within the conglomerate.

\*Source: <http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/industry-and-economy/banking/article2732575.ece>

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### **Videocon general insurance to get R2 license by December end\***

Videocon General Insurance- a joint venture between US based Liberty Mutual group and Videocon one of the largest player in the consumer electronics and home appliances space is likely to get R2 license by the end of this month.

\*Source: <http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/personal-finance/insurance/insurance-news/videocon-general-insurance-to-get-r2-license-by-december-end/articleshow/11218295.cms>

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### **Kotak Life Insurance launches Invest Maxima\***

The Ulip offers policyholders three strategies to choose from: a) Self-managed strategy that comes with five fund options b) Systematic switching strategy which enables the customer to invest in the equity market in a systematic manner over a period of time c) A customized combination of the above two.

\*Source: <http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/personal-finance/insurance/insurance-news/kotak-life-insurance-launches-invest-maxima/articleshow/11186984.cms>

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### **Grievance redress in insurance sector on the fast track\***

Grievance redress in the insurance sector is quicker now. The average time taken for a grievance to be addressed is around 14 days. This has been made possible because of the integrated grievance management system set up by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority.

\*Source: <http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/industry-and-economy/banking/article2726574.ece>

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### **LIC to open branches in 18 districts in South India\***

Out of the 156 districts in the seven States/Union Territories in South India, 18 do not have a branch of the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC). Four districts do not have branches of non-life insurance companies, said the Union Finance Minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, at a press conference after chairing the meet with the chief ministers of south zone States/Union Territories and heads of public sector banks (PSBs) in Bangalore.

\*Source: <http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/industry-and-economy/banking/article2726474.ece>

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### **IRDA chief tells companies not to indulge in 'unhealthy competition'**

Insurance companies should not indulge in "unhealthy competition" and fight for the topline at any costs, Mr. J. Hari Narayan, Chairman, Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India, said. This unhealthy competition, according to him, might lead to financial trouble for the companies.

\*Source: <http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/industry-and-economy/banking/article2721119.ece>

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### **LIC earned Rs 6,542 cr profit from stock mkt\***

Country's largest insurer, Life Insurance Corporation, earned Rs 6,542.72 crore profits from investments in stock market in the first seven months of the current fiscal, Parliament was informed. LIC had invested Rs 21,294.80 crore in the equity market during April-October period of 2011, Minister of State for Finance Namo Narain Meena said in a written reply to the Lok Sabha.

\*Source: <http://www.financialexpress.com/news/lic-earned-rs-6-542-cr-profit-from-stock-mkt/888606/>

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### **MIM Software: App is a backup to fixed workstations\***

As you learned from MobiHealthNews, MIM Software received a second FDA 510(k) clearance for its MobileMIM radiology app. In this case, the Food and Drug Administration approved MobileMIM radiology app for viewing x-rays and ultrasound images for diagnostic purposes. The federal agency also cleared the iPhone and iPad app for reviewing and approving of radiation therapy plans.

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

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### **Halamka to test ways to reduce mobile device distraction\***

Perhaps the best-known hospital CIO in the country loves the potential of mobile devices to improve care, but he cautions that healthcare organizations had better understand and act to mitigate the risks mobility can introduce.

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

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### **Most patients want to see notes, some MDs want to share\***

Patients overwhelmingly want access to the notes their physicians take during visits, according to one study that was recently published in the Annals of Internal Medicine. About 95 percent of patients who participated in the twelve-month study (and the survey that followed it) said that giving patients access to the notes was a good idea, while between 69 percent to 81 percent of those participating primary care physicians agreed.

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

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### **US HealthConnect acquires assets of ReachMD\***

US HealthConnect (USH) has acquired the assets of Chicago-based ReachMD, both companies announced. All of ReachMD's assets, including its mobile apps and rights to its Sirius/XM satellite radio station, are included in the deal.

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

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### **Workplace wellness startup Keas raises \$6.5M\***

Keas, the health gaming platform for corporate wellness programs co-founded by the original Google Health chief Adam Bosworth, has raised \$6.5 million in its second round of funding. Atlas Ventures and Ignition Partners led the deal.

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

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### **Rock Health unveils second batch of startups\***

Mobile health incubator Rock Health recently announced its second group of startups, the "Spring Class of 2012." The 15 companies will begin the incubator's five month program in January. The program includes \$20,000 in grants, mentorship from health policy and business experts, as well as office space.

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

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### Healthbox incubator's first class of startups\*

A new health incubator, Healthbox, is set to launch on January 9th with its first batch of 10 health startups, which it chose from some “hundreds” of applications that came in from 26 states and eight countries. A group of healthcare providers, payors, venture firms and others supported the formation of Healthbox, including venture capital firm Sandbox Industries, the BlueCross Blue Shield Venture Fund, the California Healthcare Foundation, Walgreens, Ridgeview Medical Center, Merrick Ventures, and HLM Venture Partners.

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

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### CardioMapper: First iPhone app to use Bluetooth Smart\*

CardioMapper, the first app to use the Bluetooth Smart low-energy spec, is now available in Apple's AppStore and available for iPhone 4S users. The \$1.99 app from developer body-PRO is capable of connecting and continuously transmitting data from heart rate monitors that feature Bluetooth Smart (previously known as Bluetooth 4.0) support.

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

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### Mobile MIM receives second FDA clearance\*

MIM Software received its second FDA 510(k) clearance for the latest version of its Mobile MIM radiology app. The newest FDA clearance adds support for viewing images to plan for a radiation-based treatment.

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

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### Microsoft launches HealthVault Windows Phone app\*

Microsoft released an official mobile app for its HealthVault PHR platform for smartphones running the company's Windows Phone 7 operating system. The free app allows users to quickly input medical information such as immunizations and allergies to the cloud-based service, view graphs charting blood pressure and glucose readings, review insurance information and family medical history, and more.

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

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### Top 10 health searches from mobile devices in 2011\*

Healthline, a consumer health search engine, published a list of 2011's most-searched health and medical terms via both desktop computers or laptops (web searches) and via mobile devices (mobile search). The published data reveals significant differences in what consumers search for from the privacy of their mobile devices vs. from PCs. Top mobile searches included keywords related to more private issues like sexually transmitted diseases and mental health topics.

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

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### **Why Aetna acquired iTriage app maker Healthagen\***

Aetna has acquired mobile health startup, Healthagen, developer of the popular health app iTriage, for an undisclosed sum. The acquisition marks one of the first exits for a high profile mobile health startup.

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

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### **Allstate Files \$6.3 Million Fraud Suite in N.Y.\***

Allstate (Northbrook, Ill.) closed out 2011 by filing its seventh fraud lawsuit of the year in New York. The suit aims to recover \$6.3 million from 83 defendants who allegedly submitted fraudulent and misleading bills for durable medical equipment, medical supplies and orthotic devices. It follows an investigation by Allstate's Special Investigative Unit.

\*Source: <http://www.insurancetech.com/regulation/232300924>

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### **Tokio Marine to Buy Delphi Financial\***

Tokio Marine said it will buy U.S. insurer Delphi Financial Group for \$2.7 billion and is eyeing other acquisition targets, as Japan's No.2 property-casualty insurer looks to expand outside its mature home market and diversify geographic risks.

\*Source: <http://www.insurancetech.com/management-strategies/232300890>

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### **Unable to Consider Gender, European Insurers Turn to Telematics\***

Motor insurers seeking to get around a European ban on charging male drivers more than women are turning to innovative black box technology that could trigger an upheaval in the way car insurance is sold. Britain's biggest motor insurer, Royal Bank of Scotland, is among those testing the technology, which allows insurers to monitor customers through devices in their cars, and charge according to how riskily they drive.

\*Source: <http://www.insurancetech.com/business-intelligence/232300833>

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### **RLI Moves CIO to Underwriting Post\***

Peoria, Ill.-based RLI Insurance Company has named Carol Denzer VP of underwriting for Contrac Pac. Replacing her at the top of the IT department for the specialty insurance carrier is Murali Natarajan, who is promoted to VP of IT.

\*Source: <http://www.insurancetech.com/management-strategies/232300670>

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### **Insurers Look to Shape Systemic Risk Regulations\***

As the rulemaking phase of the Dodd-Frank Act continues, insurers are looking to shape the rules to determine which companies constitute a systemic risk to the larger economy. The American Insurance Association (AIA) filed comments to the

Financial Stability Oversight Council (FSOC) regarding its charge under Section 113 of the act, designating which companies are deemed risky enough to merit “heightened prudential supervision” from federal regulators.

\*Source: <http://www.insurancenetworking.com/news/systemic-risk-property-casualty-fsoc-29610-1.html>

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### **NFIP Limps Along\***

With the stroke of a pen, President Obama signed a continuing resolution that bought the troubled National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) another week of funding. Nonetheless, the long-term prospects of the NFIP, some \$17.8 billion in debt, remain in doubt. While the House has passed the Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2011, legislation that funds the program for 5 years while simultaneously reforming the program’s rate structure and mapping protocols, the Senate has only passed a six-month extension of the program that lacks any substantive reforms.

\*Source: <http://www.insurancenetworking.com/news/nfip-privatization-insurance-29613-1.html>

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### **PCI Responds to NTSB’s Call for a Ban\***

The Property Casualty Insurers Association of America (PCI) responded to the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board’s (NTSB) call for a national ban on the use of cell phones while driving by commending the attention being given to the issue of distracted driving. The association also asserts the fact that cell phones are only one source of distraction for American drivers.

\*Source: <http://www.insurancenetworking.com/news/pci-response-cell-phone-ban-29598-1.html>

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### **Infosys BPO Signs Definitive Agreement to Acquire Portland Group Pty Ltd in Australia\***

Infosys BPO Limited, the business process outsourcing subsidiary of Infosys Limited, announced the signing of a definitive agreement to acquire all of the outstanding share capital in Australia-based Portland Group Pty Ltd, a leading provider of strategic sourcing and category management services. The acquisition is expected to be completed by early January 2012, subject to certain closing conditions being met.

\*Source: <http://www.infosys.com/newsroom/press-releases/Pages/strategic-sourcing-category-management.aspx>

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### **Telit still in acquisition mode as it buys GPS module maker, Navman Wireless OEM for US\$3m in cash\***

Telit Communications Plc, a global provider of machine-to-machine (M2M) wireless technology, entered into a binding agreement to purchase Navman Wireless OEM Solutions, LP, a designer and manufacturer of Global Positioning System (GPS) modules and solutions, for US\$3 million in cash. The acquisition of Navman’s technology and its US-based executive engineering and sales staff will make Telit a major contender in the GPS market while providing an enhanced product portfolio for its M2M customers. Navman is expected to generate approximately \$7.1 million of revenue and \$0.2m of EBITDA in the year to 31 December 2011.

\*Source: <http://www.m2mnow.biz/2011/12/22/3798-telit-still-in-acquisition-mode-as-it-buys-gps-module-maker-navman-wireless-oem-for-us3m/>

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### **Gemalto confirms M2M Now's report that it is buying troubled SDP provider SensorLogic\***

The digital security specialist, Gemalto (Euronext NL0000400653 – GTO), has announced that it has acquired SensorLogic. This confirms the report and exclusive insider comment revealed on this site on 10 December. The terms of the transaction, which was structured as an asset deal, have not been disclosed.

\*Source: <http://www.m2mnow.biz/2011/12/20/3785-gemalto-confirms-m2m-nows-report-that-it-is-buying-sdp-provider-sensorlogic/>

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### **Logic PD and Wyless announce the launch of a new modular technology platform\***

Working closely with Wyless, Logic PD has introduced Catalyst™ to the market, a modular technology platform that provides proof-of-concept technologies. Catalyst integrates the expertise and products from a wide range of Logic PD partners, including Wyless, to demonstrate the level of product innovation now available and the benefits to a company's bottom line that can be realized by streamlining technology integration.

\*Source: <http://www.m2mnow.biz/2011/12/20/3776-logic-pd-and-wyless-announce-the-launch-of-a-new-modular-technology-platform/>

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### **35 million handsets in 2011 marks breakthrough year for mobile NFC\***

According to a new report by IMS Research, a leading independent supplier of market research and consultancy to the global electronics industry the number of Near Field Communications (NFC)-enabled phones shipped in 2011 totaled 35 million globally.

\*Source: <http://www.m2mnow.biz/2011/12/19/3773-35-million-handsets-in-2011-marks-breakthrough-year-for-mobile-nfc/>

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### **TIA's first smart device communications specification released\***

Claiming that this will lay the foundation for future architectural and IP-enabled application adoption across the M2M sector, The Telecommunications Industry Association's (TIA) TR-50.1 Smart Device Communications, Requirements and Architecture Engineering Subcommittee has released its Smart Device Communications Reference Architecture standard addressing machine-to-machine (M2M) technologies and markets.

\*Source: <http://www.m2mnow.biz/2011/12/16/3744-tias-first-smart-device-communications-specification-released/>

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### **Medicare Passes On Big Profits To Insurers\***

This has been a volatile year for the stock market. But one sector has been consistently earning a windfall for investors: health insurers who provide private Medicare plans to seniors.

\*Source: <http://www.medicarenews.net/medicare-passes-on-big-profits-to-insurers-4-12-2011.htm>

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### **North Bay doctors say temporary fix doesn't solve Medicare problems\***

North Bay doctors said the deal struck in Congress does nothing to resolve a fundamental problem with the Medicare system, which provides health care to millions of senior citizens across the country.

\*Source: <http://www.medicarenews.net/north-bay-doctors-say-temporary-fix-doesnt-solve-medicare-problems-12-2011.htm>

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### **Medicare spending growth rising slower but enrollment will rise\***

Throughout Medicare's 46-year-old history, monitoring the cost of the government health plan for the elderly has been a bit like the old joke: No one asked if spending would jump. They only asked how high. But in early 2010, the number crunchers at Medicare headquarters in Baltimore saw something surprising: a sharp drop in the volume of doctor visits and other outpatient services.

\*Source: <http://www.medicarenews.net/medicare-spending-growth-rising-slower-but-enrollment-will-rise-2-12-2011.htm>

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### **Medicare Can't Rescue Congress On Fix For Doctors' Pay\***

With official Washington trapped in partisan gridlock, doctors who treat Medicare patients are once again facing the prospect of a big cut in pay that almost no one supports.

\*Source: <http://www.medicarenews.net/medicare-cant-rescue-congress-on-fix-for-doctors-pay-12-2011.htm>

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### **Medicare doctors fed up with Washington\***

The payroll tax impasse in Congress has put Medicare doctors on edge over the likelihood that their pay could be slashed 27.4% in a fortnight.

\*Source: <http://www.medicarenews.net/medicare-doctors-fed-up-with-washington-3-12-2011.htm>

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### **A game changer on Medicare's future?\***

The Paul Ryan-Ron Wyden Medicare reform plan is a political game-changer. Amidst heated gridlock in Washington, Rep. Paul Ryan, a conservative budget hawk, and Sen. Ron Wyden, a respected liberal senator, have reached consensus on vital entitlement reform. Medicare is on the track to insolvency; this could be the bipartisan solution.

\*Source: <http://www.medicarenews.net/a-game-changer-on-medicares-future-12-2011.htm>

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### **Shell companies steal millions from Medicare\***

Criminals are using the veil of corporate secrecy to steal hundreds of millions of dollars from Medicare, a Reuters investigation finds.

\*Source: <http://www.medicarenews.net/shell-companies-steal-millions-from-medicare-12-2011.htm>

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### Medicare cuts could hit Jan. 18\*

Nearly 650,000 doctors caring for millions of seniors will get a steep cut in Medicare payments Jan. 18 unless a gridlocked Congress issues a reprieve, program officials said. A provision waiving a scheduled 27.4 percent cut in physician reimbursement was included in the payroll tax legislation now ensnared in partisan political wrangling between the House and Senate.

\*Source: <http://www.medicarenews.net/medicare-cuts-could-hit-jan-18-2-12-2011.htm>

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### Doctors' Medicare Pay Cut Won't Be Unlinked From Tax Bill\*

House Republicans have no plans to move a stand-alone bill to reverse a 27-percent cut in Medicare fees to doctors that's set to go into effect Jan. 1, a spokesman for Speaker John Boehner said.

\*Source: <http://www.medicarenews.net/doctors%e2%80%99-medicare-pay-cut-won%e2%80%99t-be-unlinked-from-tax-bill-12-2011.htm>

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### Medicare rules can be costly\*

A little-known federal regulation has turned into a financial nightmare for an increasing number of families with an older adult who needs skilled nursing care.

\*Source: <http://www.medicarenews.net/medicare-rules-can-be-costly-12-2011.htm>

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### Sharp Healthcare picked for "Pioneer" Medicare program\*

Sharp HealthCare is one of 32 health systems Nationwide chosen to participate in an experimental federal program to improve care and cut costs for Medicare patients. In the next week, 32,000 local Medicare recipients will get a letter from Sharp inviting them into the Pioneer Accountable Care Organization.

\*Source: <http://www.medicarenews.net/sharp-healthcare-picked-for-pioneer-medicare-program-12-2011.htm>

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### Partnerships aim to improve care, lower Medicare costs\*

The Obama administration announced new partnerships with 32 of the nation's leading medical providers that agreed to work with the federal government to improve the quality and lower the cost of caring for Americans who rely on Medicare.

\*Source: <http://www.medicarenews.net/partnerships-aim-to-improve-care-lower-medicare-costs-12-2011.htm>

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### **DMC and UM chosen for national Medicare contracting project\***

Detroit Medical Center and the University of Michigan Health System were chosen to participate in a new Medicare accountable-care organization pilot program called Pioneer.

\*Source: <http://www.medicarenews.net/dmc-and-um-chosen-for-national-medicare-contracting-project-12-2011.htm>

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### **Medicare Launches Experiment to Improve Care\***

Medicare launches test to improve care through better coordination by doctors and hospitals.

\*Source: <http://www.medicarenews.net/medicare-launches-experiment-to-improve-care-12-2011.htm>

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### **Baltimore health deal reveals the future of Medicare\***

If you want to understand a major reason medical costs are out of control, breaking the federal budget and dividing the country, look at the types of people enrolled in XLHealth's Medicare insurance plans.

\*Source: <http://www.medicarenews.net/baltimore-health-deal-reveals-the-future-of-medicare-12-2011.htm>

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### **Psychiatric hospital loses Medicaid/Medicare contract\***

Psychiatric hospital loses Medicaid/Medicare contract HOUSTON CHRONICLE Copyright 2011 HOUSTON CHRONICLE. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed. The IntraCare deficiencies, not corrected over a series of CMS inspections from July to November, mostly involved the improper use of restraints.

\*Source: <http://www.medicarenews.net/psychiatric-hospital-loses-medicaidmedicare-contract-12-2011.htm>

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### **3 Million Could Lose Jobless Pay in Impasse\***

More than three million people stand to lose unemployment insurance benefits in the near future because of an impasse in Congress over how to extend the aid and how to offset the cost.

\*Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2011/12/21/us/with-impasse-in-congress-3-million-could-lose-jobless-benefits.html?scp=3&sq=insurance&st=cse>

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### **Health Care Law Will Let States Tailor Benefits\***

In a major surprise on the politically charged new health care law, the Obama administration said that it would not define a single uniform set of "essential health benefits" that must be provided by insurers for tens of millions of Americans. Instead, it will allow each state to specify the benefits within broad categories.

\*Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2011/12/17/health/policy/health-care-law-to-allow-states-to-pick-benefits.html?scp=10&sq=insurance&st=cse>

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### **AIG's Benmosche Extends His Stay\***

American International Group Inc. Chief Executive Robert Benmosche has told the company's directors that he would like to remain in his job longer than previously planned, signaling he is in for the long haul after weak markets slowed the government's exit from the bailed-out insurer.

\*Source: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970203686204577114800086316034.html?KEYWORDS=insurance>

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### **Prudential's Chairman to Depart\***

Prudential PLC, the U.K.'s largest insurer by market value, said that Harvey McGrath plans to step down as chairman next year. The move comes amid strong growth in Asia but is also marked by Prudential's high-profile failure last year to buy Asian rival AIA Group Ltd. for \$35.5 billion.

\*Source: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970204791104577110282277855656.html?KEYWORDS=insurance>

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### **IAG Pounces Again\***

Insurance companies are by nature cautious so it's a surprise to see one complete two deals in three trading days. After taking out New Zealand's largest insurer for 380 million New Zealand dollars (US\$287 million), Insurance Australia Group announced its joint venture AmG Insurance has submitted a proposal to acquire Kurnia Asia's principal general insurance business Kurnia Insurance for an undisclosed price, believed by the market to be less than 250 million Australian dollars (US\$248 million).

\*Source: <http://blogs.wsj.com/dealjournalaustralia/2011/12/20/insurance-australia-group-pounces-again/?KEYWORDS=insurance>

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### **States Told They Can Decide on Coverage by Health Plans\***

The Obama administration said it would shift to states the decision about what treatments many insurance plans must cover under the health-care overhaul, sidestepping contentious fights with Republican state officials and patient-advocacy groups.

\*Source: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970203733304577102853112696874.html?KEYWORDS=insurance>

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