



HEALTHCARE ROUND-UP



August 18, 2017

As Cost of Benefits Rises, Employees See Shift in Spending

Employee Benefits News

Are employees getting the benefits they really want? Maybe not, according to a recent Willis Towers Watson analysis. The study, "[Shifts in Benefit Allocations Among U.S. Employers.](#)" revealed that from 2001 to 2015 the cost of employer-provided benefits, measured as a percentage of pay, rose 24 percent, and, during that time, employers shifted benefit dollars to areas that may not meet employee preferences.

Employers Must Continue ACA Compliance – For Now

Bloomberg BNA

Neither a Trump administration executive order nor any part of the ACA waive the act's employer shared responsibility payment provision, the Internal Revenue Service said in a pair of information letters. Responding to two inquiries, the IRS in [INFO 2017-0010](#) and [INFO 2017-0013](#) said the Jan. 20, 2017, executive order directed federal agencies to reduce potential burdens imposed by the ACA where permitted but didn't change the law.

The Switcheroo that Could Give McConnell Enough Votes to Repeal Obamacare

Modern Healthcare

Just when you thought the Republican drive to repeal the ACA was finally dead, there is a plausible new [scenario](#) being discussed on how Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell could resuscitate it.



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Will Congress Reintroduce Efforts to Remove the ACA?

Employee Benefits Advisor

With ongoing calls from the White House for Senate Republicans to renew their repeal and replace efforts, and with modest suggestions of a more bipartisan approach, Congress is likely to revisit changes to the ACA in the fall. Since the July 28 defeat, other Republican Senators have begun working on new bills they hope to introduce when the Senate returns.

Recess Update on the Affordable Care Act and Its Repeal and Replacement

J.D. Supra

The momentary lull in congressional activity on healthcare provides an opportune time for an update on the efforts to repeal and replace the ACA.

White House: Gov't to Make Health Law Payments this Month

The Associated Press

The government will make this month's payments to insurers under the Obama-era healthcare law that President Donald Trump still wants to repeal and replace, a White House official said.

Can My Boss Make Me Pay The Tax On My Great Health Plan? Maybe Yes

NPR

Do I have to pay the health law's so-called "Cadillac tax" because I have good health insurance? When can I get Trumpcare plans for my kids? And what can I do if my insurance plan choices don't include a specialist who is the only doctor in the area that can treat my cancer? Here are the answers to some recent questions about health insurance from readers.

Large U.S. Employers Project Healthcare Benefit Costs to Surpass \$14,000 per Employee in 2018, National Business Group on Health Survey Finds

National Business Group on Health

Faced with another 5 percent increase in healthcare benefit costs, a growing number of large U.S. employers plan to focus more on how healthcare is delivered and paid for while still pursuing traditional methods of controlling costs such as cost sharing and plan design changes, according to an annual survey by the National Business Group on Health.

The National Association of Professional Employer Organizations