



## HEALTHCARE ROUND-UP



September 15, 2017

### [Republican Senators Plead for One Last Chance to Repeal Obamacare](#)

*The Atlantic*

Senators Lindsey Graham (R-SC) and Bill Cassidy (R-LA) introduced a bill to convert the law into a block grant for states. But the GOP has moved on, and their plan might never get a vote.

### [Sanders Offers Medicare-for-all Plan Backed by 16 Democrats](#)

*Employee Benefits News*

Sixteen Senate Democrats are flirting with a single-payer healthcare system, marking a shift within the party on what was once viewed as a politically treacherous issue that attracted little support from lawmakers. The Democrats are co-sponsoring a measure proposed Wednesday by Senator Bernie Sanders, a Vermont socialist that would expand Medicare coverage to all Americans.

### [Medicare for All or State Control: Healthcare Plans Go to Extremes](#)

*The New York Times*

Important elements in both parties are trying to move beyond President Barack Obama's healthcare law, which has always been a complicated, politically difficult mix of government and private health insurance. But they are moving in radically different directions. The proposals appeared to have only one thing in common: Neither is likely to be enacted any time soon.



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## **How the Trump Administration is Reshaping Healthcare - Without Congress**

*Politico*

While Congress tussles over Obamacare, the Trump administration is quietly pressing ahead with plans to gut major Obama-era rules and relax federal oversight of swaths of the healthcare industry. Once envisioned as a companion to the GOP's now-stalled effort to repeal Obamacare, the regulatory rollback has fast become the Trump administration's chief weapon against former President Barack Obama's healthcare legacy - and sets the stage for an industry-friendly reshaping of the healthcare system.

## **Blue Cross Leaving Illinois Obamacare Exchange for Small Businesses**

*Chicago Sun-Times*

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois will no longer offer group plans for small businesses through the ACA health insurance exchange, the company announced this week. As of January 2017, just 27,000 employers nationwide had SHOP plans covering about 230,000 people, according to the federal Department of Health and Human Services. In Illinois, 3,512 employees from 738 businesses were covered under such plans.

## **Top 10 Health Conditions Costing Employers the Most**

*Employee Benefits News*

What conditions are costly for employers to cover? In IFEPB's Workplace Wellness Trends 2017 [Survey](#), more than 500 employers were asked to select the top three conditions impacting plan costs. The following 10 topped the list.

## **IRS Nixes Purported "Tax-Free Benefits" Arrangements**

NAPEO has received numerous inquiries from member PEOs, as well as current and prospective client employers, regarding whether employers can make available certain "wellness programs" being marketed to employers as a supposedly "legal" way to evade employment taxes. As discussed further, the IRS has weighed in on this issue three times in the last year to attempt to shut down such arrangements, and has stated that the arrangements do not achieve the tax results promised in the marketing of the arrangements.

**The National Association of Professional Employer Organizations**