

POLICY & PRACTICE

Parents Focus on Kids' Health

American parents rate their own health care needs as significantly less important than the health needs of their children and say the economic downturn has affected their own health more than that of their children, according to a survey from drugmaker Boehringer Ingelheim. More than half of over 2,000 parents surveyed (54%) said their children's health care was their top priority, far outranking housing (25%), food and groceries (11%), and their own health needs (6%). Fewer than half of those surveyed said they have health insurance that generally meets their needs and is reasonably affordable, given their current financial situation.

HHS Releases Funds for CHIP

A total of \$6 billion in new federal funds will be available for states and U.S. territories in 2009 to provide health care through their Children's Health Insurance Programs, the Department of Health and Human Services announced. The new funds come from the CHIP reauthorization act signed into law earlier this year, and they will help states and territories expand enrollment in the program, HHS said. With the new funding, CHIP will cover 11 million children, including 4 million who were previously uninsured, HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius said in a statement. HHS already has released more than \$1 billion of the funds to states and said it expects to allocate the rest by the end of September.

Senators Revive Defibrillator Bill

Ohio's senators, George Voinovich (R) and Sherrod Brown (D), have reintroduced legislation that would put automatic external defibrillators (AEDs) in U.S. elementary and secondary schools. The bill is named for Josh Miller, an Ohio high school student who died on a football field following cardiac arrest. The bill

would provide up to 75% of the cost of an AED, plus training.

Bisphenol-A Is Focus Again

The Food and Drug Administration is conducting a new safety review of the chemical bisphenol-A in consumer products such as food containers. Rep. Henry Waxman (D-Calif.), chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, recently requested that officials reevaluate the Bush administration's conclusion that the chemical is safe at current

exposure levels. Rep. Waxman has called on the FDA to determine whether its interaction with industry groups during the review of bisphenol-A was appropriate.

New ADHD Society Debuts

The American Professional Society of ADHD and Related Disorders (APSARD) made its debut in June. The Mt. Royal, N.J.-based society claims to be the first devoted to ADHD and aims to improve quality of care, boost research, and disseminate best practices. The organization is also launching the quarterly peer-reviewed Journal of ADHD and Related

Disorders. The board of directors includes Dr. Ronald Kessler of Harvard Medical School and Dr. Joseph Biederman, chief of the adult ADHD program at Massachusetts General Hospital. Dr. Biederman has been under fire from Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) for alleged failures to disclose conflicts of interest. According to APSARD Executive Director Gene Terry, the society expects to fund the majority of its activities from journal subscriptions, advertising, and membership dues, and it will accept industry support for independent continuing medical education.

—Jane Anderson

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