AACU
American Association of Clinical Urologists, Inc.

AACU and the News
March 15, 2018

Hawaii State Capitol (Honolulu)

AACU News

[Urologists Needed for MACRA Cost Measure Development; Call for Nominations]
CMS is seeking urologists who wish to serve on a committee tasked with developing episode of care and patient condition groups for Urologic Disease Management. This Clinical Subcommittee will provide expert input to contribute to the development of episode-based cost measures.

[Urologist Honored by Alabama Lawmakers]
On Feb. 7, 2018, Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey signed a resolution honoring urologist Dr. William Terry (1953-2015) that was sponsored by Speaker pro tempore Victor Gaston (HJR54). The resolution reads, in part: Dr. Terry contributed expert guidance and leadership to physician organizations at the county, state, and national levels; he was a delegate to the AMA House of Delegates for 20 years.

National News of Note

Urology Times: How would MedPAC replace MIPS?
A proposed alternative to the Merit-based Incentive Payment System would act as an 'on-ramp' for joining advanced alternative payment models.

Hidden blacklist in new tax law could hit doctors

Recent big Medicare changes include shrinking the 'doughnut hole'

Fmr HHS secretary to successor: 'be bold'

House fails to pass 'right to try' bill

Veterans' legislative agenda tackles health care, research

Trump uses page from 'smart policymaking 101' on health care
The Trump administration is taking a pragmatic new tack on health care, with officials promising consumer friendly changes and savings in areas from computerized medical records to prescription drugs.

FDA chief becomes point man on drug prices

White House panel on cancer drug costs recommends finding 'value'

Drug Pricing a Hot Topic at Health Insurer Conference

Head of major insurer lobby stepping down after turbulent term; Top insurer lobbyist to step down, as trade group's influence diminishes

Shareholders approve CVS-Aetna acquisition

More employers go direct to providers, sidestepping payers

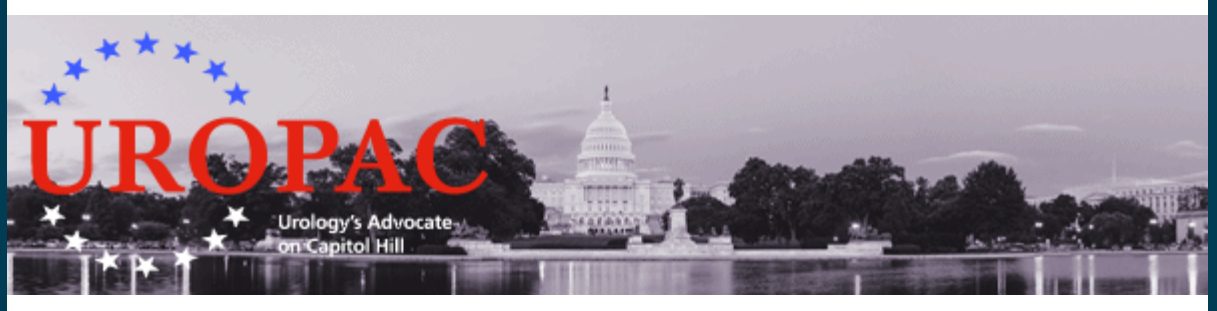
Congressional leaders concerned with lax federal oversight of accrediting organizations
Given the apparent ease with which some healthcare organizations have received accreditation, Congressional leaders have raised questions about CMS oversight of accrediting agencies and the actual process.

Hospitals acquired 5K physician practices in 1-year period

Hospitals are having trouble finding employees, survey shows

Genetic testing for prostate cancer languishes

LUGPA Endorses AACU Policy Statement on Genomic Testing



State Round-Up

States Seek to Refine 'All-Payer' Hospital Payment Systems
As Medicare officials continue to refine that program's system for paying physicians, several states are experimenting with changes to the way their hospitals are reimbursed.
The granddaddy of unique hospital payment systems is Maryland, which started an "all-payer" reimbursement system in the 1970s.

Capitol Building Atrium (Honolulu)

Medicaid Expansion Via Ballot Measure Gains Momentum

CA: Lawmakers lay out incremental steps to CA health care reform

GA: Legislation to help cancer hospital draws opposition

ID: Governor maintains support for non-ACA plans even after CMS letter

IL: Gov. signs new Medicaid funding plan for hospitals; IL: Hospital tax update becomes law

LA: Hospital exec predicts dire consequences if budget cuts become reality

MS: Bill providing best option to hike cigarette dies, issue might be revived

VA: Lawmakers may pass Medicaid expansion this year

WA: Insurer credits GOP tax law for commitment to ObamaCare

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