



More Healthcare Problems?

If you are wondering about what's next with the Affordable Care Act (ACA), you'll have to wait till after the next election before you get the big picture. Mandates, dates, changes to related programs like limiting Medicare Part D choices, reductions in Medicare... on and on are being delayed or glossed over, in the hope of saving as many supporters as possible in the next elections.

Current ACA issues

July 2, 2013 - The White House delays for one year the law's requirement that employers provide coverage to workers.

Nov. 14, 2013 - After insurers canceled plans, as the law required, the White House instructs states to let individuals keep their policies for another year.

Feb. 10, 2014 - The requirement that employers with 50-99 workers provide coverage is delayed another year until 2016.

March 5, 2014 - People in plans that don't comply with Obamacare can keep renewing them as late as October 2016, avoiding a new round of cancellations during the 2014 campaign season.

Delay being considered - The MLR provision, which took effect in 2012, requires insurers in the individual and small-group markets to spend 80 percent of every insurance premium dollar (85 percent for insurers in the large-group market) on medical care and expenses for customers. ***Not with the excess administrative burden of the new program!***

Medicare

Medicare Part D ó There are plans to make this (*one of the very few*) successful programs look more like Obamacare. They plan to limit choice and limit the providers. (*Note - The change is not going forward at this time; no reason given.*)

The CBO reports Medicare payment cuts would total \$716 billion over the next ten years.

The House Energy and Commerce Committee reported that Medicare Advantage will suffer ódirect and indirectó payment reductions exceeding \$300 billion over ten years.

While the Academics that put the Affordable Care Act together may have had the best intentions, they should have listened to the words of one who understood the real world:

"In theory, there is no difference between theory and practice.
But in practice, there is." ~ Yogi Berra ~

<http://www.businessweek.com/printer/articles/189307-obamacares-year-of-delayed-deadlines>

<http://www.heritage.org/research/commentary/2013/12/will-obamacare-kill-medicare>