

TODAY'S MUST READS – APRIL 03, 2013

ALLIANCE MENTIONS

NOW, THE TEENY WEENY BEAN PLAN

Health News Florida

Carol Gentry

April 3, 2013

"Unfortunately, Senator Bean's anemic proposal is like giving an aspirin tablet to a patient who needs open heart surgery," said Richard Polangin, government affairs director for Florida Alliance for Retired Americans.

<http://health.wusf.usf.edu/post/now-teeny-weeny-bean-plan>

HEALTHCARE

CHOLESTEROL-LOWERING EYE DROPS ALSO FIGHT BLINDNESS IN ELDERLY

Medical Daily

Justin Caba

April 2, 2013

A study conducted by *Cell Press* examined how cholesterol deposits in white blood cells known as macrophages contributed to blindness in the elderly. The team of researchers also probed possible medications for the disorder including an eye drop form that may reduce side effects.

<http://www.medicaldaily.com/articles/14491/20130402/cholesterol-lowering-eye-drops-fight-blindness-elderly.htm#qvVyXxkcHqIZH2sF.99>

SMALL, RURAL HOSPITALS LAG ON SOME QUALITY MEASURES

Reuters

Genevra Pittman

April 2, 2013

Although fewer people are dying shortly after treatment for heart attacks, heart failure and pneumonia at most U.S. hospitals than a decade ago, the same trend doesn't apply to certain small, rural facilities, a new study suggests.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/04/02/us-health-rural-hospitals-idUSBRE9310VK20130402>

POLITICS

CMS REVERSES COURSE ON CUTS

Politico

Brett Norman and Jennifer Haberkorn

April 3, 2013

The insurance industry chalked up one of its greatest political victories in recent memory on Monday as the Obama administration reversed course on a proposal to cut Medicare Advantage rates.

<http://www.politico.com/story/2013/04/insurance-medicare-advantage-cuts-health-care-89569.html#ixzz2PP0mitaO>

CONFIRMATION HEARING SET FOR TOP HEALTHCARE NOMINEE

The Hill

Sam Baker

April 2, 2013

The Senate Finance Committee will hold a hearing next Tuesday on Marilyn Tavenner's nomination to lead the Centers Medicare and Medicaid Services.

<http://thehill.com/blogs/healthwatch/medicare/291455-confirmation-hearing-set-for-top-healthcare-nominee#ixzz2PPIsAYPj>

FEUD BETWEEN HOSPITALS, MEDICARE CONTRACTORS EXPLODES OVER FRAUD BILL

The Hill

Elise Viebeck

April 3, 2013

The longstanding feud between hospitals and Medicare contractors is intensifying as a House bill proposes new restrictions on anti-fraud efforts in Medicare.

<http://thehill.com/blogs/healthwatch/medicare/291545-feud-between-hospitals-medicare-contractors-explodes-over-fraud-bill>

SEQUESTER

FEDERAL CUTS ELIMINATE MEALS FOR ELDERLY POOR, BUSES FOR HEAD START

The Palm Beach Post

Jennifer Sorentroue

April 3, 2013

Palm Beach County commissioners on Tuesday agreed to cut a series of federally-funded community service programs that help low-income children and senior citizens as forced budget cuts, known as the sequester, take effect.

<http://www.palmbeachpost.com/news/news/sequester-cuts-eliminate-meals-for-elderly-poor-bu/nXBT2/>

SEQUESTER WILL FORCE UNIVERSITIES TO SCALE BACK SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

Huffington Post Politics

Jim Malewitz
April 3, 2013

Researchers and university officials worry the lost funding will slow or halt research on everything from cancer treatments to contaminated soil and water.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/04/03/sequester-scientific-research_n_3005969.html?utm_hp_ref=politics