



# Health Care Recap

Report provided courtesy of: KSA Group

October 11 - 17, 2019

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### SESSION STATUS

At 12:59 p.m. on Wednesday, September 25, 2019 the Senate stands in recess until Monday, October 21, 2019 at 1:00 p.m., unless sooner recalled by the President Pro Tempore.

At 4:02 p.m. on Wednesday, September 25, 2019 the House stands adjourned until Monday, October 21, 2019 at 1:00 p.m., unless sooner recalled by the Speaker.

### UPCOMING SESSION DAYS

#### House

Oct. 21, 22, 23, 28, 29, 30  
Nov. 12, 13, 14, 18, 19, 20  
Dec. 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18

#### Senate

Oct. 21, 22, 23, 28, 29, 30  
Nov. 18, 19, 20  
Dec. 16, 17, 18



## Around the Rotunda

### AUDITOR GENERAL DEPASQUALE RELEASES REPORT ON FENTANYL'S IMPACT ON PENNSYLVANIA

By Sheri Melnick, Pennsylvania Legislative Services | October 16, 2019

Auditor General Eugene DePasquale released his report on fentanyl's impact on the opioid crisis in Pennsylvania this afternoon.

He explained that the report, titled *A Deadly Dose: Fentanyl's Impact in Pennsylvania*, was developed because of opioid abuse in Pennsylvania. He noted that the cost to taxpayers and Pennsylvania's economy is "staggering." DePasquale commented that Governor Tom Wolf has implemented measures to stop opioid overdoses, including the second distribution of free naloxone. He asserted that fentanyl can be "50 times more powerful than heroin." He noted that he lost a cousin to a fentanyl overdose and opined that there are very few families that "have not been touched by the deadly drug." DePasquale explained that even though fentanyl has legitimate medical uses, it can be manufactured cheaply, sold on the street, and mixed with heroin, cocaine, and methamphetamines without the user's knowledge. He noted that the report also highlights how fentanyl contributed to a 67 percent increase in overdose deaths in 2017 and was among the top three deadliest drugs in nearly every Pennsylvania county tracking data in 2017.

DePasquale commented that his report offers observations and recommendations of ways to help improve the fight against fentanyl and the disease of opioid-use disorder. According to the White House Council of Economic Advisors, DePasquale noted that opioid treatment and deaths cost the U.S. economy about \$500 billion per year, with Pennsylvania's share of the economic impact estimated at \$25 billion. He asserted that the cost breaks down to approximately \$1,965 per Pennsylvanian. DePasquale explained that though his office could not determine a fixed cost of the treatment of opioid use disorder because of the far-reaching impact, they determined that hospitalization costs for opioid-related hospital stays cost at least \$178 million for Medicaid recipients in 2017.

DePasquale said, "Pennsylvania cannot win the war against the illicit fentanyl on its own." He noted that law enforcement agencies must deal with sophisticated drug rings since much of the fentanyl originates in China. He stated that if the federal government tries to stop the importation of fentanyl, Pennsylvania should focus on treating those who are "sick and suffering." He asserted that there is legislation pending in Pennsylvania that would make fentanyl test strips legal and permit drug users to test their drugs for fentanyl. DePasquale opined that the decrease in overdose deaths from 2017 to 2018 resulted from increased access to naloxone. He commented that another way Pennsylvania could reduce the number of opioid-related deaths would be to expand the number of those trained to treat the disease of addiction. "The cost to human beings, families, and communities of Pennsylvania is simply too large, and we must do everything we can," DePasquale said.

DePasquale took questions from the press.

### You said that 67 percent of opioid deaths are linked to fentanyl. How did you get that number?

DePasquale indicated that the number was provided through data from law enforcement, the Pennsylvania Department of Health, and the Centers for Disease Control.



**You also said that there is a risk to first responders and law enforcement officers when dealing with victims of opioid use. Where did you get that information from?**

DePasquale explained that the information came from law enforcement personnel and health-related research.

**There are members of media who say that is not true.**

DePasquale commented that he is not a medical doctor and that law enforcement has expressed concerns about officers claiming they have gotten sick by helping treat people overdosing at the scene.

**Can we assume that the \$178 million to treat Medicaid recipients in hospitals does not reflect other people being treated for overdoses?**

DePasquale explained that while that is a precise number that can be tracked, it does not include the cost to treat those on Medicare or insurance that is subsidized.

**Would the idea be to distribute the test strips the same way as naloxone?**

DePasquale noted that other states have legalized them and recommended that Pennsylvania do so as well.

**Do you know which states?**

DePasquale stated that his office can provide that information.

**There is legislation pending in Pennsylvania to legalize test strips. Who is the sponsor?**

DePasquale commented that his office can provide that information.

**Why did you decide to focus specifically on fentanyl?**

DePasquale noted that it was because of “its extreme danger” and to raise awareness of how it enters Pennsylvania.

**Other than Medicaid dollars, were there any other areas where you were able to pinpoint the actual costs?**

DePasquale commented that no, he was not able to pinpoint the actual costs.

**You touched on U.S. and China negotiations. Is there a way that the state can limit fentanyl coming into Pennsylvania?**

DePasquale stated that the ability to limit fentanyl coming into Pennsylvania “really requires federal action.”

**Can you clarify the figure showing the economic impact of opioid treatment and deaths as \$500 billion per year with a \$25 billion share for Pennsylvania?**

DePasquale explained that the statistics came from the White House Council of Economic Advisors.

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## **CHRONIC PAIN PATIENTS CRITICIZE OPIOID GUIDELINES**

By Jeff Cox, Pennsylvania Legislative Services | October 16, 2019

A group of chronic pain patients from across the commonwealth gathered in the Main Capitol rotunda today to criticize the Center for Disease Control’s (CDC) guidelines restricting the prescribing of opioids for the treatment of chronic pain. The gathering was part of a series of nationwide events organized by the [Don’t Punish Pain](#) organization.

Debra Wigfield, a resident of Mount Union, said she has been disabled for 14 years and suffers severe back and leg pain. She reported she has had both of her knees replaced. Wigfield told participants, “We are never without pain. We want the right to be treated as humans.”

Noting the small number of people in attendance, Oxford resident Marty Folker said, “People who aren’t here want to be here.” He reported many people would like to participate but cannot move because of their chronic pain. According to Folker, over 40 million people in the United States suffer some type of chronic pain. He spoke of the operations he has had because



of injuries to his back and neck. Folker also said he suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) when he is facing the possibility of not receiving his prescriptions.

Harrisburg resident Ron Johnson, a member of the board of directors of the [South Central Pennsylvania Sickle Cell Council](#), told rally participants he was born with sickle cell anemia and has been suffering all of his life. He said that in the past 20 years, he has not slept more than 2.5 hours a night. Johnson also said this is his second rally.

Kelly Bryan, a former registered nurse, argued, “We are targeting the wrong cause.” She stated, “People are being punished for a crisis they didn’t cause.”

### **Committee News**

No Committee News this week.

### **MAAC**

MAAC did not meet this week.

### **Bullet.in.Points**

#### **[DHS: FINAL-FORM RULEMAKING: INTENSIVE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES](#)**

The Department of Human Services (DHS) adopts Chapters 1155 and 5240 (relating to intensive behavioral health services) to read as set forth in Annex A under the authority of sections 201(2) and 1021 of the Human Services Code and section 201(2) of the Mental Health and Intellectual Disability Act of 1966. The purpose of this final-form rulemaking is to codify the minimum licensing standards and program requirements for participation in the Medical Assistance (MA) Program and MA payment conditions for agencies that deliver intensive behavioral health services to children, youth and young adults under 21 years of age with mental, emotional and behavioral health needs. Additional information can be found on the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.

#### **[DHS: INPATIENT HOSPITALS QUALIFYING FOR MEDICAL ASSISTANCE DISPROPORTIONATE SHARE PAYMENTS](#)**

The Department of Human Services is required to annually publish the names of each inpatient acute care general hospital, rehabilitation hospital and private psychiatric hospital qualifying for a disproportionate share payment and their respective disproportionate share payment percentage. Interested persons are invited to submit written comments regarding these payments to the Department of Human Services, Office of Medical Assistance Programs, c/o Regulations Coordinator, Room 515, Health and Welfare Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120. Comments received within 30 days will be reviewed and considered for any subsequent revision of the notice. Additional information can be found on the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.

#### **[DHS: MANAGED CARE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM](#)**

The Department of Human Services is providing final notice of an adjustment to the managed care assessment fixed fee effective January 1, 2020. DHS estimates that the annual aggregate fiscal impact of this change in fiscal year 2019-2020 will be an additional \$177,291,000 in assessment revenue. Additional information can be found on the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.

#### **[L&I: PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE PROPOSED VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES PORTION OF THE COMMONWEALTH'S WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT COMBINED STATE PLAN FOR 2020-2024](#)**

The Department of Labor and Industry Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) announces a period of public comment on its proposed federal fiscal year 2020 Combined State Plan for 2020-2024. The OVR public meetings will be held concurrently in each OVR district office on Thursday, November 7, 2019, from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., and then repeated from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Written comments may be submitted by mail to the appropriate district office serving the area in which the individual/



organization member resides or by e-mail to [OVRFeedback@pa.gov](mailto:OVRFeedback@pa.gov). All written comments must be received no later than 5 p.m. on Tuesday, November 12, 2019.

To obtain a copy of the proposed 2020-2024 vocational rehabilitation portion of the plan visit OVR's [website](#). Additionally, a copy of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Plan for 2016-2020 is available [here](#). Additional information can be found on the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.

### Cosponsor Memos

<a href="#">HCO2696</a>	<a href="#">Murt, Thomas(R)</a>	Supports the voluntary addition of a "C" - Communication Impediment specification designation on PA Drivers license or PA Identification Card.
<a href="#">HCO2703</a>	<a href="#">Isaacson, Mary (F)(D)</a>	Establishes an opioid product registration fee, with proceeds to go towards an opiate reparation and accountability fund.
<a href="#">HCO2708</a>	<a href="#">Schemel, Paul(R)</a>	Terminates health insurance benefits for legislators and their families after the legislator leaves office.
<a href="#">HCO2714</a>	<a href="#">Sappey, Christina (F)(D)</a>	Requires the State Board of Pharmacy to issue regulations requiring warning labels be added to opioid prescription bottles.
<a href="#">SCO1220</a>	<a href="#">Iovino, Pam(D)</a>	Prohibits health insurance policies within the Commonwealth from imposing either an annual or lifetime limit.

### Bill Actions

<a href="#">HB 1586</a>	<a href="#">Sims, Brian(D)</a>	(PN 2034) Amends the Public School Code adding a new section requiring each school to provide students with sexual health education that meets the criteria set forth in the legislation. Requires the Department of Education and the Department of Health to develop and maintain a list of sexual education curricula consistent with the requirements of the new section. Effective in 90 days.
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**Bill History:** 06-05-19 H Filed  
06-06-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Education  
10-17-19 H Discussed during public hearing, House Democratic Policy Committee -- House Democratic Policy Committee



HB 1902 Miller, Daniel(D) (PN 2669) Amends the Public School Code, in pupils and attendance, providing that an out-of-school suspension and an absence related to a medical condition that is explained by a valid medical excuse from a licensed practitioner of the healing arts in any state, commonwealth or territory may not be considered an unexcused absence. The legislation further provides that a board of school directors may excuse a child or children from attending school for urgent reasons, upon approval of the Department of Education, and shall not permit irregular attendance. The legislation also allows every principal or teacher in a public, private or other school to also excuse a child for nonattendance during temporary periods. Effective immediately.

**Bill History:** 09-27-19 H Filed  
10-15-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Education

HB 1912 Zimmerman, David(R) (PN 2660) Amends the Vital Statistics Law, in records, providing that no fees shall be charged for certified copies of records furnished to county coroners if requested in connection with their official duties regarding the internment of an unclaimed dead body. Effective in 60 days.

**Bill History:** 10-02-19 H Filed  
10-11-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Health

HB 1918 Mullery, Gerald(D) (PN 2681) Amends the Mental Health and Intellectual Disability Act, in preliminary provisions, providing a technical change; and in responsibilities of the state, providing for a moratorium on the closure of state facilities. This legislation provides for no closure of a state facility until all Medicaid-waiver eligible persons have been granted waivers. Once waivers have been granted, the bill provides for the establishment of a task force to conduct an evaluation and provide recommendations to the Department of Human Services (DHS) prior to closure. The legislation also provides that if the task force votes for closure, DHS will prepare a plan for the closure and transition of individuals receiving care in the state facility to a home or community-based support system. Effective immediately.

**Bill History:** 10-03-19 H Filed  
10-15-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Health

HB 1920 Readshaw, Harry(D) (PN 2682) The Involuntary Drug and Alcohol Treatment Act provides for involuntary treatment requirements and procedures for individuals suffering from alcohol and other drug abuse; and imposes duties on the Department of Health and the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs. A court of common pleas may order involuntary treatment for an individual suffering from alcohol and other drug abuse pursuant to the procedures set forth in the bill. Effective in 60 days.

**Bill History:** 10-04-19 H Filed  
10-15-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Human Services



HB 1922 [Readshaw, Harry\(D\)](#) (PN 2684) Amends the Medical Practice Act further providing for the permanent revocation of license for a physician if convicted of an offense under the Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act, or a substantially similar offense in another state. Effective in 60 days.

**Bill History:** 10-04-19 H Filed  
10-15-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Professional Licensure

HB 1923 [Readshaw, Harry\(D\)](#) (PN 2685) Amends the Professional Nursing Law further providing for the permanent revocation of license for a licensee if convicted of an offense under the Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act, or a substantially similar offense in another state. Effective in 60 days.

**Bill History:** 10-04-19 H Filed  
10-15-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Professional Licensure

HB 1924 [Readshaw, Harry\(D\)](#) (PN 2686) Amends the Practical Nurse Law further providing for the permanent revocation of license for a licensee if convicted of an offense under the Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act, or a substantially similar offense in another state. Effective in 60 days.

**Bill History:** 10-04-19 H Filed  
10-15-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Professional Licensure

HB 1926 [Readshaw, Harry\(D\)](#) (PN 2687) Amends the Osteopathic Medical Practice Act further providing for the permanent revocation of license for a physician if convicted of an offense under the Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act, or a substantially similar offense in another state. Effective in 60 days.

**Bill History:** 10-04-19 H Filed  
10-15-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Professional Licensure



**HB 1930**    **Hennessey, Tim(R)**    (PN 2688) Amends the Older Adults Protective Services Act making changes to legislative intent and adding offenses for which convictions would bar persons from working with older adults. The legislation provides that employees of financial institutions will receive training to identify activities that constitute the financial exploitation of older adults and provides for voluntary reporting of exploitation. The bill adds a section relating to mandated reporters of elder abuse and provides for the procedures of investigation of those reports by the area agencies on aging. The legislation provides confidentiality provisions relating to the information contained in reports, records of investigation, assessments and services plans; and provides for rights of older adults. The bill establishes the requirement for a criminal history check for employees of a facility caring for older adults, and civil penalties for mandatory reporters who fail to comply with reporting requirements. The legislation also provides for immunity from criminal and civil liability as well as funding for the administration. The section relating to the duties of employees of financial institutions will be effective in one year; the regulatory requirements of the Department of Aging, the Department of Health, and the Department of Human Services will be effective immediately; and the remainder of the act will take effect in 180 days.

**Bill History:** 10-07-19 H Filed  
10-15-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Aging and Older Adult Services

**HB 1937**    **Topper, Jesse(R)**    (PN 2695) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in general provisions, relating to preliminary provisions, providing that the only designations for "sex" on a driver's license are male or female. Effective in 60 days.

**Bill History:** 10-09-19 H Filed  
10-15-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Transportation

**HB 1943**    **Ortitay, Jason(R)**    (PN 2701) Amends the Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act providing for prescribing of opioids and penalties. The bill establishes that the department shall impose an administrative penalty on a prescriber for a violation of the regulations under subsection a as follows: for a first violation, \$500; for a second violation, \$1,500; for a third violation, \$3,000; for a fourth violation, the department shall notify the prescriber's licensure board of the violation and the licensure board shall revoke the prescriber's license. Effective in 60 days.

**Bill History:** 10-11-19 H Filed  
10-15-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Health



- HB 1944 Ortity, Jason(R) (PN 2702) Amends the Administrative Code providing for an opioid action task force. This legislation provides that the Department of Health shall have duties relating to coordination of drug and alcohol treatment services and residential drug and alcohol treatment programs for pregnant women and mothers and their dependent children. The bill establishes that the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs shall inform single county authorities of those programs in their jurisdiction being considered for funding and shall convene annual meetings of recipients funded under residential drug and alcohol treatment programs for pregnant women and mothers and their dependent children. The bill provides for intergovernmental collaboration on substance abuse between the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs, the Department of Corrections, the Department of Education, the Department of Health, the Department of Human Services, the State Board of Medicine, the Board of Probation and Parole, the Pennsylvania State Police, and the Department of Transportation. This legislation also provides for provisions of a public health emergency and the declaration of public health emergency by the secretary of health. Effective in 60 days.
- Bill History:** 10-11-19 H Filed  
10-15-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Judiciary
- HB 1947 Kaufer, Aaron(R) Amends Medical Practice Act, further providing for license without restriction.
- Bill History:** 10-17-19 H Filed
- HB 1949 Otten, Danielle (F)(D) Amends the Public School Code, in terms of courses of study, providing for free-play recess and lunch periods.
- Bill History:** 10-17-19 H Filed
- HB 1977 Borowicz, Stephanie (F)(R) Amends Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses), in abortion, providing for fetal heartbeat examination, providing for medical consultation and judgement, for abortion on unborn child 24 or more weeks gestational age and for reporting.
- Bill History:** 10-16-19 H Filed
- HR 565 Briggs, Tim(D) (PN 2667) Resolution recognizing October 20, 2019, as "Mast Cell Diseases Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania.
- Bill History:** 10-11-19 H Filed  
10-15-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Health  
10-22-19 H Meeting set for 9:30 a.m., Room G-50, Irvis Office Building, House Health -- House Health
- HR 566 Matzie, Robert(D) Resolution designating the month of November 2019 as "Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.
- Bill History:** 10-15-19 H Filed
- HR 568 Ullman, Wendy (F)(D) Resolution recognizing the American Red Cross's emergency call for blood donations, encouraging the creation of addition blood drives in PA and encouraging all eligible residents to donate blood.
- Bill History:** 10-16-19 H Filed



- HR 570      Bizzarro, Ryan(D)      Resolution recognizing the month of November 2019 as "National Epilepsy Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.
- Bill History:** 10-17-19 H Filed
- SB 439      Regan, Mike(R)      (PN 427) Amends the Enforcement Office Disability Benefits Law further providing for disability benefits and for definitions. The following are added to the scope of the law: probation officers employed by a participating county; campus police officers employed by a participating university; commissioned police officers employed by the Department of Corrections, Bureau of Investigations and Intelligence; DCNR rangers, DCNR ranger supervisors, DCNR ranger operations specialists and DCNR ranger trainees employed by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources; members of the Fort Indiantown Gap Police; investigative staff of the Office of Inspector General; members of the Allegheny County Port Authority Police; members of the Allegheny County Housing Authority Police; and corrections officers or jail guards employed by a participating county and whose principal duty is the care, custody and control of inmates. Effective in 60 days. (Prior Printer Number: 417)
- Bill History:** 09-25-19 S Set on the Senate Calendar  
09-25-19 Laid out for discussion 11:29am  
09-25-19 Third consideration 11:29am  
09-25-19 S Final Passage (Vote: Y: 49/N: 0)  
10-15-19 H Received in the House and referred to House Judiciary
- SB 892      Stefano, Patrick(R)      (PN 1250) Amends Title 35 (Health & Safety), providing for lead exposure and poisoning, establishing that the Department of Health shall develop and distribute readily understandable information and educational and instructional materials regarding risk factors associated with lead exposure and emphasizing lead screening and testing procedures required by law. Lead educational materials shall be provided without cost to the parent or guardian of the child or to a pregnant woman and may be made available in a downloadable format on the department's website. Lead poisoning posters and brochures regarding the hazards of lead poisoning shall be displayed and available for consumers by retailers which offer paint and plumbing components. Effective in 60 days.
- Bill History:** 10-15-19 S Filed  
10-15-19 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Health and Human Services



**SB 898**     **Schwank, Judy(D)**     (PN 1254) Amends the Administrative Code, in powers and duties of the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs, authorizing the department to impose fees for substance abuse treatment facilities and activities and establishing the Drug and Alcohol Facility License Account; and making inconsistent repeals of certain provisions of the Human Services Code. Fee amounts are prescribed in the legislation and fees shall be increased every 10 years based on the Consumer Price Index. Effective in 180 days.

**Bill History:** 10-15-19 S Filed  
10-15-19 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Health and Human Services

**SB 905**     **Browne, Patrick(R)**     (PN 1256) The Capital Budget Project Itemization Act of 2019-20 provides for the capital budget for fiscal year 2019-20, itemizes various public improvement projects, authorizes the incurring of debt without the approval of electors for financing projects, authorizes the use of current revenue for the purpose of financing projects and provides appropriations. Effective immediately.

**Bill History:** 10-17-19 S Filed  
10-17-19 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Appropriations

## Upcoming Events

### Press Conference

*October 21, 2019 - 11:00 a.m., Main Capitol Rotunda, Harrisburg*  
Domestic Violence Awareness Month Ceremony

### House Health and House Human Services

*October 21, 2019 - 11:00 a.m., Room 140, Room 140 Main Capitol*  
Joint public hearing on the closure of White Haven and Polk State Centers

### House Insurance

*October 21, 2019 - 11:30 a.m., Room 60, East Wing*  
Informational meeting on: [HB 1439](#) Kaufer, Aaron Amends title 40 re reporting by insurers [HB 1696](#) Murt, Thomas Amends Insurance Company Law re mental health

### House Finance

*October 21, 2019 - 12:00 p.m., Room 205, Ryan Office Building*  
To consider: [HB 1189](#) Knowles, Jerry Amends Title 35 re first responder tax credit

### Press Conference

*October 21, 2019 - 12:00 p.m., Main Capitol Rotunda, Harrisburg*  
Peyton's Law Press Conference

### State Bd of Social Wkrs, Marriage & Fam. Therapists & Prof. Coun.

*October 22, 2019 - 8:30 a.m., 2601 North Third Street, Harrisburg*  
Committee meeting on regulations. For additional information: (717) 783-1389



*October 22, 2019 - 9:30 a.m., 2601 North Third Street, Harrisburg*  
Board Meeting. For additional information: (717) 783-1389

#### **State Board of Pharmacy**

*October 22, 2019 - 9:00 a.m., 2601 North Third Street, Board Room B, Harrisburg*  
Board Meeting. For additional information: (717) 783-7156

#### **Department of Health**

*October 22, 2019 - 9:30 a.m., Finance Building, Room 500, 613 North St., Harrisburg*  
Achieving Better Care by Monitoring All Prescription Program (ABC-MAP) Meeting. For additional information: (717) 547-3144

#### **House Aging and Older Adult Services**

*October 22, 2019 - 9:30 a.m., Room 60, East Wing*  
Informational meeting on APPRISE immediately following a voting meeting to consider: [HR 532](#) Murt, Thomas Resolution re Blindness Awareness Month

#### **House Health**

*October 22, 2019 - 9:30 a.m., Room G-50, Irvis Office Building*  
To consider: [HB 410](#) Oberlander, Donn Amends Human Services Code re FDA drugs [HR 435](#) Donatucci, Maria Resolution re Medical Assistants [HR 497](#) Bizzarro, Ryan Resolution re dwarfism awareness month [HR 498](#) Kinsey, Stephen Resolution re Rett Syndrome Awareness Month [HR 507](#) Hahn, Marcia Resolution re study of human services hotlines [HR 524](#) Hill-Evans, Caro Resolution re Pharmacy Month [HR 548](#) Heffley, Doyle Resolution re Peroxisomal Awareness Day [HR 556](#) Heffley, Doyle Resolution re Down Syndrome Awareness Month [HR 565](#) Briggs, Tim Resolution re Mast Cell Diseases Awareness [SB 572](#) Aument, Ryan Amends Title 35 re opioid treatment agreements

#### **House Labor and Industry**

*October 22, 2019 - 9:30 a.m., Room 205, Ryan Office Building*  
To consider: [HB 1234](#) Cox, Jim Amends Workers' Comp. Act re exclusive remedy

#### **Press Conference**

*October 22, 2019 - 10:30 a.m., Main Capitol Rotunda, Harrisburg*  
Brain Injury Awareness Rally (unconfirmed)

#### **Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs**

*October 22, 2019 - 12:30 p.m., Room 461, Main Capitol*  
To consider: [SB 798](#) Killion, Thomas Amends Dog Law re dangerous dogs

#### **Press Conference**

*October 22, 2019 - 1:00 p.m., Main Capitol Rotunda, Harrisburg*  
Lilly's Bill Press Conference (unconfirmed)

#### **Press Conference**

*October 22, 2019 - 2:00 p.m., Main Capitol Rotunda, Harrisburg*  
PA Lyme Resource Network (unconfirmed)

#### **House Judiciary**

*October 22, 2019 - Off the Floor, Room 205, Ryan Office Building*  
To consider: [HB 137](#) Quinn, Chris Amends Controlled Substance Act re immunity [HB 616](#) Owlett, Clint Amends Controlled Substance Act re Carfentanil [HB 1879](#) Gillespie, Keith Amends Title 18 re aggravated assault

**Senate Health and Human Services**

*October 23, 2019 - 9:30 a.m., Hearing Room 1, North Office Building*  
Public hearing on the Medical Assistance Statewide Preferred Drug List

**Senate Labor and Industry**

*October 23, 2019 - 9:30 a.m., Room 8E-B, East Wing*  
Public hearing on private changing facilities for disabled children and adults

**State Board of Osteopathic Medicine**

*October 23, 2019 - 9:30 a.m., 2601 North Third Street, Harrisburg*  
Board Meeting. For additional information: (717) 783-4858

**Pennsylvania Rehabilitation Council**

*October 23, 2019 - 9:30 a.m., Harrisburg Hilton and Towers, 1 N. 2nd St., Harrisburg*  
Council Meeting. For additional information: (717) 975-2004

**Press Conference**

*October 23, 2019 - 11:00 a.m., Main Capitol Rotunda, Harrisburg*  
ABA for All Introducing HB 1900 (unconfirmed)

**Department of Human Services**

*October 23, 2019 - 1:00 p.m., Health & Welfare Building, Room 129, 333 Market St., Harrisburg*  
Consumer Subcommittee of the Medical Assistance Advisory Committee. For additional information: (717) 783-9916

**Press Conference**

*October 23, 2019 - 2:30 p.m., Main Capitol Rotunda, Harrisburg*  
Conversion Therapy Ban Presser (unconfirmed)

**State Board of Nursing**

*October 24, 2019 - 9:00 a.m., One Penn Center, Board Room B, 2601 North Third Street, Harrisburg*  
Monthly Board Meeting. For additional information: (717) 783-7142

**Department of Aging**

*October 24, 2019 - 10:00 a.m., Farm Show Complex, Keystone Conference Center, 2300 N. Cameron Street, Harrisburg*  
Long-term Care Council Meeting. For additional information: (717) 705-7296

**Department of Health**

*October 24, 2019 - 10:00 a.m., Radisson Hotel Harrisburg, 1150 Camp Hill Bypass, Camp Hill*  
Statewide Pharmaceutical Benefits Program Advisory Council Meeting. For additional information: (800) 922-9384

**Department of Human Services**

*October 24, 2019 - 10:00 a.m., PA Dept. of Education, 3rd Floor, E-Center, 333 Market St., Harrisburg*  
Children's Trust Fund Board Meeting. For additional information: (717) 772-2098

*October 24, 2019 - 10:00 a.m., Temple University Harrisburg, 234 Strawberry Square, Harrisburg*  
Medical Assistance Advisory Committee (MAAC) Meeting. For additional information: (717) 772-6341

**Press Conference**

*October 24, 2019 - 11:00 a.m., Main Capitol Rotunda, Harrisburg*  
PA's Seriously Disabled Individuals & Families Demand Choice (unconfirmed)

**Press Conference**

*October 28, 2019 - 11:00 a.m., Main Capitol Rotunda, Harrisburg*  
End Healthcare Insurers' Excessive Prior Authorization Practices (unconfirmed)

**State Board of Medicine**

*October 29, 2019 - 9:00 a.m., 2601 North Third Street, Harrisburg*  
Board Meeting. For additional information: (717) 783-1400

*October 29, 2019 - 1:00 p.m., 2601 North Third Street, Harrisburg*  
Committee on Licensure Qualifications for the State Board of Medicine Meeting. For additional information: (717) 783-1400

**Department of Human Services**

*November 1, 2019 - 10:00 a.m., 625 Forster St., Rm. 129, Harrisburg*  
PA eHealth Partnership Program Advisory Board Quarterly Meeting. For additional information: (717) 772-2098

**Department of Human Services**

*November 5, 2019 - 10:00 a.m., PCCD Offices, Commission Meeting Room, Ground Floor, 3101 N. Front Street, Harrisburg*  
Children's Advocacy Center Advisory Committee Meeting. For additional information: (717) 265-8497

**Patient Safety Authority**

*November 5, 2019 - 10:00 a.m., The Conference Center at Central Penn College, 600 Valley Road, Summerdale*  
Board Meeting. For additional information: (717) 346-0469

**Department of Human Services**

*November 6, 2019 - 10:00 a.m., Department of Education, Honors Suite, 1st Floor, 333 Market St., Harrisburg*  
Managed Long-Term Services & Supports Subcommittee Meeting. For additional information: (717) 772-2549

**State Board of Optometry**

*November 7, 2019 - 9:00 a.m., 2601 North Third Street, Harrisburg*  
Board Meeting. For additional information: (717) 783-7155

**PA Health Care Cost Containment Council (PHC4)**

*November 7, 2019 - 10:00 a.m., Council Conference Room, 225 Market Street, Suite 400, Harrisburg*  
Council Meeting. For additional information: (717) 232-6787

**Governor's Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities**

*November 8, 2019 - 9:30 a.m., 333 Market Street, Heritage Rooms A & B, Lobby Level, Harrisburg*  
Committee Meeting. For additional information: (717) 787-4287



## In the News

- 10-17-2019 **[Auditor General outlines recommendations for fighting fentanyl use in new report](#)**  
Pennsylvania Auditor General Eugene DePasquale on Wednesday outlined a series of recommendations for federal and state lawmakers designed to reduce the effects that fentanyl has had on Pennsylvania. The recommendations are the result of DePasquale's new report on... - [Pennsylvania Legislative Services](#)
- 10-17-2019 **[Philly officials propose restricting e-cigarette sales to 'protect young people'](#)**  
Mayor Jim Kenney and Health Commissioner Thomas Farley introduced a proposal Wednesday to restrict the sale of e-cigarettes to minors, reflecting increased concern over the spike in vaping-related illnesses and deaths. But unlike other cities that are focusing mainly on youth-friendly flavored... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 10-17-2019 **[Pa. auditor general: Save lives fast by legalizing fentanyl test strips](#)**  
The General Assembly should legalize fentanyl test strips, which allow drug users to determine whether the deadly narcotic is present in substances, state Auditor General Eugene DePasquale said upon unveiling a report Wednesday. "Unfortunately, fentanyl test strips are currently illegal in Pennsylvania,... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 10-17-2019 **[North Huntingdon police bust Penn Hills man on marijuana charges](#)**  
A Penn Hills man whose vehicle ran out of gas allegedly had 29 marijuana plants stuffed in multiple bags stashed in his car when North Huntingdon police arrested him early Wednesday morning. Lamar D. Kincaid, 55, is accused of having several large garbage bags of... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 10-17-2019 **[Former Redirections doctor sentenced to home confinement for illegal prescriptions](#)**  
A former employee of Redirections Treatment Advocates was sentenced in federal court this week to home confinement and probation for illegally prescribing a drug used to treat opioid addiction. Michael Anthony Bummer, 40, of Sewickley, also was fined \$20,000 and... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 10-17-2019 **[Pa. auditor general says fentanyl test strips could save lives, urges lawmakers to legalize them](#)**  
State Auditor General Eugene DePasquale is calling on the General Assembly to legalize fentanyl test strips immediately to save lives of first responders and drug users alike. Fentanyl is 50 times more powerful than heroin and exposure to a small amount can be deadly. But possessing the test strips that would detect its... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)
- 10-17-2019 **[Families of White Haven Center residents protest decision to close facility](#)**  
WILKES-BARRE — For nearly 40 years, Maria Kashatus has lived at the White Haven Center. Glen Lyon resident Tom Kashatus said his 51-year-old daughter has intellectual and physical disabilities. She can't walk, she can't talk and she can't feed herself, he said.... - [Wilkes-Barre Citizens' Voice](#)
- 10-17-2019 **[Auditor General DePasquale calls for Legislature to legalize fentanyl testing strips](#)**  
Pennsylvania's auditor general on Wednesday released a report on fentanyl's impact on the state and called on the Legislature to legalize fentanyl testing strips as a way to reduce overdose deaths. Auditor General Eugene DePasquale shared that his cousin died of an... - [Beaver County Times](#)



- 10-17-2019 **Police seize \$211K in marijuana from vacant Aliquippa home**  
ALIQUIPPA — Two men are facing multiple charges after police recently recovered more than 64 pounds of marijuana from an Aliquippa stash house. Ralph Smith, 50, of 2302 McMinn St. and Robert Platt, 35, of 316 Spaulding St., both in Aliquippa, are charged with multiple counts of felony... - [Beaver County Times](#)
- 10-17-2019 **Auditor general says state should OK use of fentanyl test strips**  
HARRISBURG — Pennsylvania should legalize test strips that drug users can employ to detect if fentanyl is present as a measure to save lives from overdoses caused by the deadly drug, Auditor General Eugene DePasquale said. The test strips are now illegal because they are considered drug... - [Meadville Tribune](#)
- 10-17-2019 **Dickson City Ambulance dismisses paid staff; borough officials want answers**  
Facing an estimated \$100,000 in debt, the Dickson City Community Ambulance Association told borough officials this month it dismissed all paid staff and will operate as a volunteer organization. Borough residents will continue to receive the same level of care and rapid... - [Scranton Times](#)
- 10-17-2019 **DOC hearing on SCI-Retreat closure set for Thursday**  
WILKES-BARRE — A teen accused of breaking into a family's home and killing a man will be transferred to another mental health facility as a result of an order by a Luzerne County judge on Tuesday. Zachary Lee Hockenberry, 17, has been consistently in custody since the... - [Wilkes-Barre Times Leader](#)
- 10-17-2019 **Mahoning planners debate need for LVHN hospital**  
The Mahoning Township planning has recommended that the Mahoning supervisors reject Lehigh Valley Health Network's conditional use application for its proposed hospital off Route 443. Lehigh Valley Health Network met with supervisors last month to discuss plans to build the 89,000-square-foot facility in Mahoning. The hospital... - [Lehigh Valley News](#)
- 10-17-2019 **Public skeptical of Phillips-Hill's marijuana legalization survey**  
A recent survey from Sen. Kristin Phillips-Hill gauging constituents' thoughts on marijuana legalization came under fire this week as residents questioned her methodology. The York Township Republican on Monday, Oct. 14, released a survey her office conducted of the state's 28th Senate District that reported 71% of... - [York Dispatch](#)
- 10-17-2019 **Senate bill aims to legalize adult-use marijuana**  
A long-awaited bill from Sens. Daylin Leach, D-17, and Sharif Street, D-3, ending marijuana prohibition in Pennsylvania comes less than a month after Lt. Gov. John Fetterman's report of widespread support for legalization. Two state lawmakers have been drafting a bill ending marijuana prohibition... - [Levittown Bucks County Courier Times](#)
- 10-17-2019 **Donations to hospital foundation up about \$1 million**  
Donations to the Northwest Hospital Foundation are up by about \$1 million this year. That announcement was made Wednesday at the annual corporation meeting of the Northwest Hospital Foundation at Wanango County Club. Rod Griffin, chairman of the foundation, said the foundation now has more... - [Oil City Derrick](#)



- 10-17-2019 **DePasquale details fentanyl's impact in new report, outlines steps for progress**  
HARRISBURG — Auditor General Eugene DePasquale is calling for the legalization of test strips that could allow drug users to detect the presence of fentanyl before the substance could lead to another overdose. During a presentation of a new report, A Deadly Dose: Fentanyl's Impact... - [Towanda Daily Review](#)
- 10-17-2019 **A push to legalize marijuana across Pa. by 2 Philadelphia-area lawmakers**  
PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — There's a push to legalize recreational marijuana in Pennsylvania, and two Philadelphia-area state senators are working together in an effort to do just that. Pennsylvania State Sen. Daylin Leach recently introduced a bill to legalize... - [KYW News Radio 1060](#)
- 10-17-2019 **Cancer can't stop Hempfield freshman Cody Campbell in return to football field**  
If you watch closely, every time 14-year-old Cody Campbell takes a step, his left foot turns outward. "You normally run with your foot straight," Campbell said. "So my foot will kick out to the side." The muscles that previously kept Campbell's left foot straight as he... - [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#)
- 10-17-2019 **What Does Fentanyl Cost PA In Dollars? Auditor Tries To Find Out**  
Pennsylvania's auditor general says when his team set out to determine how much addiction to opioids—and in particular, the powerful synthetic drug fentanyl—costs Pennsylvania, they immediately ran into some problems. "It has such a far-reaching impact that determining an accurate total... - [WESA 90.5](#)
- 10-17-2019 **Drug Giants Close In on a \$50 Billion Settlement of Opioid Cases**  
The nation's three largest drug distributors and two manufacturers have agreed with multiple states on a framework to resolve thousands of opioid cases with a settlement worth nearly \$50 billion in cash and addiction treatments, according to three people familiar with the negotiations.... - [New York Times](#)
- 10-17-2019 **Analysis | The Health 202: House Democrats are pushing forward on their partisan drug-pricing bill**  
House Republicans aren't ruling out backing a potential deal between President Trump and Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) to let the government negotiate lower drug prices in the Medicare program, long a liberal aspiration. But until a Trump/Pelosi deal actually happens . and that's highly in doubt... - [Washington Post](#)
- 10-17-2019 **Ohio medical board contracting with victim advocates, retired prosecutors to review 2,000 closed sexual misconduct cases**  
The State Medical Board of Ohio is contracting with victim advocates and retired prosecutors to review about 2,000 sexual misconduct cases that were closed without action. It has allocated up to \$100,000 for the contract work and up to another \$50,000 to have paper documents digitized. The... - [Columbus Dispatch](#)
- 10-17-2019 **FDA reconsiders drug to prevent premature birth after it failed in a new study**  
Eight years ago, the first drug specifically approved to prevent premature birth was hailed as a public health victory, a way to put a dent in the leading cause of newborn death and disability. But that drug, a synthetic version of the hormone progesterone, has a long,... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)



- 10-17-2019 **Editorial: DEP needs to address hemp smell**  
New industries will always have growing pains. It shouldn't be surprising that growing hemp should be experiencing hiccups. After all, growing hemp is something that hasn't really happened — legally, at least — in Pennsylvania for decades. The namesake of Hempfield Township and Hempfield Area School District may have... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 10-17-2019 **Attorney: Lawsuit planned over VA hospital death in West Virginia**  
An attorney representing the family of a patient who died at a Veterans Affairs hospital in West Virginia says he plans to sue over what he believes is the man's suspicious death from a wrongful insulin injection... - [AP](#)
- 10-17-2019 **Pennsylvania is still staring down an Affordable Care Act and health care crisis | Opinion**  
As the country delves into the throes of an impeachment inquiry and a tumultuous election year, another threat to our communities looms large. The 5th Circuit Court of Appeals is currently deliberating whether the Affordable Care Act (ACA) is unconstitutional, leaving over 130 million... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 10-17-2019 **You may have been exposed to measles. Should you be worried?**  
This week, Lehigh Valley Hospital diagnosed a case of measles and advised people who may have come in contact with the patient to call their health providers to make sure they're vaccinated against the illness. Dr. Luther Rhodes, chief of hospital epidemiology at Lehigh Valley Health... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 10-17-2019 **Suit: central Pennsylvania Hospital mishandled infection that killed 3 babies**  
The parents of a newborn who died in a Pennsylvania hospital's neonatal intensive care unit allege in a lawsuit that hospital officials failed to protect their son from a lethal bacterial infection that had already killed two other premature babies... - [AP](#)
- 10-16-2019 **Pennsylvania exceeds national rate of rising STD cases**  
The number of sexually transmitted diseases climbed again last year in the United States, with Pennsylvania's rate of increase exceeding the national average. It was the fifth consecutive year that gonorrhea, chlamydia and syphilis cases went up, according to the Centers for Disease and Prevention's... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 10-16-2019 **Joseph Mangano : Need to focus on health, not money**  
In late September, the Three Mile Island unit 1 closed permanently after 45 years, joining the better-known unit 2, only several months old at the infamous 1979 core meltdown. The recent shutdown continues the trend of closing old, corroding and leaking U.S. reactors — 10, to be exact, since early 2013. More will... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 10-16-2019 **Highmark partner Penn State Health to acquire Holy Spirit Health System**  
Officials at Highmark partner Penn State Health announced Tuesday that they intend to acquire the Holy Spirit Health System from Geisinger. Holy Spirit has been part of the Geisinger Health System of Danville, Pa., since 2014. The deal — the terms of which were not disclosed — will include... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)



- 10-16-2019 **[Pa.'s largest community college eliminates campus mental health counseling for 17,000 students](#)**  
Spotlight PA is an independent, nonpartisan newsroom powered by The Philadelphia Inquirer in partnership with the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette and PennLive/The Patriot-News. Sign up for our free weekly newsletter. HARRISBURG — Pennsylvania's largest community college system has... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 10-16-2019 **[Penn Medicine's Lancaster General is adding a \\$48 million proton therapy center](#)**  
In a few years, cancer patients in Pennsylvania Dutch Country won't have to travel to the big city to get state-of-the-art proton therapy. At least, that's the plan, announced Tuesday by the University of Pennsylvania Health System and the Lancaster General Health system, which... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 10-16-2019 **[Senators call for probe of DHS decision to close 2 state centers](#)**  
WILKES-BARRE — Four state senators — three Republicans and one Democrat — Tuesday announced that they have called on state Inspector General Bruce Beemer to investigate the process that led to the Department of Human Services' plan to close the White Haven and Polk state center.... - [Wilkes-Barre Times Leader](#)
- 10-16-2019 **[Game Commission sets CWD presentations](#)**  
An Oct. 29 event in Hollidaysburg will conclude the currently scheduled Pennsylvania Game Commission informational programs planned across the state on chronic wasting disease in deer and elk. Southern Blair and Bedford counties have been the areas most affected by... - [Altoona Mirror](#)
- 10-16-2019 **[Leach bill would legalize recreational marijuana in Pa.](#)**  
Democratic state Sens. Daylin Leach and Sharif Street want Pennsylvania to turn over a new leaf—a marijuana leaf, that is. They've introduced a bill (SB 350) that would legalize marijuana use for adults 21 and older. Leach, D-17 of Lower Merion, who is also the architect of the medical... - [Primos Delaware County Daily and Sunday Times](#)
- 10-16-2019 **[New Geisinger Childbirth Center welcomes first baby to Wilkes-Barre Twp. couple](#)**  
SCRANTON — The very first baby at the new Childbirth Center at Geisinger Community Medical Center was born recently — and she belongs to a Wilkes-Barre Township couple. Kayla Stair, 22, and Joey Donovan, 27, welcomed their first daughter, baby Jayla, into the world Sunday evening.... - [Wilkes-Barre Times Leader](#)
- 10-16-2019 **[Easton man took selfies showing marijuana he sold, police say](#)**  
Executing a search warrant May 9 at an Easton man's home, police found cellphone pictures of him posing with the marijuana he sold, authorities said. Wade Sokolowski, 34, of the 200 block of Myrtle Avenue, was arraigned Thursday on charges of drug possession with intent to deliver, criminally... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 10-16-2019 **[White Cane Safety Day teaches students about empathy for those who are blind or visually impaired](#)**  
Fifth grader Isaiah Sudler swished the white cane from side to side, probing for obstacles, as he struggled to walk blindfolded. "I was trying to walk straight," Isaiah, 10, said, "but it was a little hard." The simulation activity Tuesday in the halls of Shiloh Hills Elementary... - [Reading Eagle](#)



- 10-16-2019 **[Dr. Davidson reflects on living, working in Greencastle](#)**  
Dr. Carter Davidson grew up in a western Pennsylvania town not much different from Greencastle so, when eight years ago he decided to start practicing locally, it took no convincing that he and his family should put down roots in the close-knit community. “I immediately fell in love with Greencastle,” said Davidson.... - [Greencastle Echo-Pilot](#)
- 10-16-2019 **[Grower ready for next phase](#)**  
Saxton Borough Council learned Monday evening that Green Leaf Medical LLC is ready to begin Phase II of its cannabis growing manufacturing plant process that will cost \$35 million to complete and will bring the facility’s job total to 300. - [Huntingdon Daily News](#)
- 10-16-2019 **[Fed Up With Deaths, Native Americans Want to Run Their Own Health Care](#)**  
When 6-month-old James Ladeaux got his second upper respiratory infection in a month, the doctor at the Sioux San Indian Health Service Hospital reassured his mother, Robyn Black Lance, that it was only a cold. But 12 hours later James was struggling to breathe. Ms. Black Lance rushed... - [New York Times](#)
- 10-16-2019 **[County approves 17 children and youth contracts](#)**  
Lawrence County is continuing to take care of its children who are wayward or forsaken. John Bout, director of the county’s Children and Youth Services, and Lisa E. Haddad, deputy chief of the county’s juvenile probation department, presented the county commissioners with 17 contracts for... - [New Castle News](#)
- 10-16-2019 **[Penn State Health to take ownership of Holy Spirit Health System from Geisinger](#)**  
Geisinger will transfer ownership of Holy Spirit Health System to Penn State Health next year, a move dependent upon regulatory timeline and approval. According to a release from Geisinger, the “letter of intent is for the two health organizations to enter into a member substitution agreement for Penn... - [Sunbury Daily Item](#)
- 10-16-2019 **[High-profile trial over who should pay for the opioid crisis begins Wednesday](#)**  
That effort begins Wednesday in U.S. District Judge Dan Aaron Polster’s courtroom on the 18th floor of the federal building here, where attorneys will start picking a jury for the landmark trial. Described as the most complex litigation ever, the trial will begin to sort... - [Washington Post](#)
- 10-16-2019 **[Opinion | STDs are on the rise. They must be combated.](#)**  
IN 2000 and 2001, the national rate of reported primary and secondary syphilis cases in the United States reached the lowest since reporting began in 1941. In 2009, the rate of gonorrhea cases reached a historic low. Now this progress has unraveled . Sexually transmitted infections .... - [Washington Post](#)
- 10-16-2019 **[Analysis | The Health 202: Elizabeth Warren takes heat for evasive answers on Medicare-for-all](#)**  
This time it was Sen. Elizabeth Warren fielding attacks from all sides as the Democratic candidates vigorously debated Medicare-for-all in their fourth primary debate. Their differences over how to expand health coverage have been on display in all the previous debates, but last night the candidates especially tried... - [Washington Post](#)



- 10-16-2019 **Current policies lead some Ohio medical board cases to be closed before thorough investigation, union says**  
A union representing investigators says some policies of the State Medical Board of Ohio could lead to less-than-thorough investigations. Among them are polices that also raised the concern of a governor's working group, and the board is expected to address them at a Wednesday meeting. The board... - [Columbus Dispatch](#)
- 10-16-2019 **Kamala Harris slams Republicans on abortion, says they're killing poor women of color**  
California Sen. Kamala Harris said Tuesday it was outrageous that organizers of the 2020 presidential debates had devoted almost no time to discussing Republican efforts to roll back abortion rights. "There are states that have passed laws that will virtually prevent... - [Los Angeles Times](#)
- 10-16-2019 **Poor hearing is bad for your health, but Medicare still doesn't cover hearing aids**  
Sheila Seidman's hearing became a problem in her 60s. She found herself asking "What?" way too often. When she'd go out with friends, she couldn't make sense of their stories. "I really would try to listen, and I just couldn't get it," she said. The Plymouth Meeting woman started to feel left out and depressed. Plus,... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 10-16-2019 **Exercise helps people survive, prevent cancer: Penn State researcher**  
People have long known the positive connection between exercise and heart disease. Now it's time to raise awareness of the more recently proven exercise benefits related to cancer, according to a central Pa.-based researcher. "Currently, an average person on the street will know that exercise is... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)
- 10-16-2019 **Parents sue medical examiner to change daughter's death ruling from suicide to homicide**  
The Lower Paxton Township parents of a teacher whose death was investigated as a suicide, then ruled a homicide, then reversed back to suicide have sued the Philadelphia Medical Examiner's Office. Joshua and Sandee Greenberg filed the lawsuit Tuesday in an effort to have... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)
- 10-16-2019 **Pa.'s largest community college eliminates campus mental health counseling for 17K students**  
HARRISBURG — Pennsylvania's largest community college system has eliminated all on-campus mental health counseling for its students, Spotlight PA has learned, a move college health experts called short-sighted and risky at a time of growing need. The Harrisburg Area Community College (HACC) told counselors across its... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 10-16-2019 **New app offers a peek inside restaurant kitchens in the state**  
Pennsylvania has launched a free app designed to make it easier for consumers to find out how clean restaurant kitchens are before deciding where to eat. The app — EatSafePA — provides access to inspection reports from the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture for thousands of restaurants... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 10-16-2019 **Pa. auditor general: Save lives fast by legalizing fentanyl test strips**  
The General Assembly should legalize fentanyl test strips, which allow drug users to determine whether the deadly narcotic is present in substances, state Auditor General Eugene DePasquale said upon unveiling a report Wednesday. "Unfortunately, fentanyl test strips are currently illegal in Pennsylvania,... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)



- 10-16-2019 **Easton Opioid Awareness Task Force to host forum this Saturday**  
The Easton Opioid Awareness Task Force will host a school safety forum from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday at Paxinosa Elementary School. Featured speakers include Bill Tonkin, a retired FBI agent who will address school shooter warning signs, and Linda Johnson, president and founder of... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 10-16-2019 **Catholic values would remain at Holy Spirit under Penn State Health ownership**  
When Holy Spirit Hospital opened in 1963, the building included an attached convent to serve as home for the nuns who made up a major portion of the hospital workforce. Over the decades, the role of nuns grew smaller, although the convent remained, in recent times housing a few nuns retired from their hospital... - [Penn Live](#), [Patriot-News](#)
- 10-16-2019 **Philly officials propose restricting e-cigarette sales to minors**  
Mayor Kenney and health commissioner Thomas Farley introduced a proposal Wednesday to restrict the sale of e-cigarettes to minors, reflecting increased concern over the spike in vaping-related illnesses and deaths. But unlike other cities that are focusing mainly on youth-friendly flavored... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 10-16-2019 **Auditor General outlines recommendations for fighting fentanyl use in new report**  
Pennsylvania Auditor General Eugene DePasquale on Wednesday outlined a series of recommendations for federal and state lawmakers designed to reduce the effects that fentanyl has had on Pennsylvania. The recommendations are the result of DePasquale's new report on fentanyl,... - [Pennsylvania Legislative Services](#)
- 10-16-2019 **Study: 'Medicare for All' not only way to universal coverage**  
Health care memo to Democrats: There's more than one way to get to coverage for all... - [AP](#)
- 10-15-2019 **Pa. Game Commission to have public meetings on chronic wasting disease**  
The Pennsylvania Game Commission is hosting a series of meetings this month to inform the public about chronic wasting disease, including three in southwestern Pennsylvania. Chronic wasting disease, or CWD, has been confirmed in 250 white-tailed deer in the state and is always fatal in the deer and elk it infects. The... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 10-15-2019 **Allentown residents warned of possible measles exposure after confirmed case at LVH**  
Lehigh Valley residents who visited four select medical facilities and office buildings between October 7 and October 12 may have been exposed to measles, the Pennsylvania Department of Health warned residents Monday after getting report of a patient with measles at Lehigh Valley Hospital.... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 10-15-2019 **Obesity rate for Pa. kids remains among highest in U.S.**  
Pennsylvania has 185,400 young people between the ages of 10 and 17 who are obese, according to newly released data. That amounts to 17.4 percent — the same as in recent years, but still the ninth highest rate in the United States, according a new report from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.... - [Penn Live](#), [Patriot-News](#)
- 10-15-2019 **Penn's genital herpes vaccine is a winner in animals. Next up: testing on humans**  
For nearly a century, efforts to develop a vaccine to prevent genital herpes have failed. At least nine prospects, including several that made it to late-stage human testing, have flopped in the last decade. Considering that history, University of Pennsylvania scientists are... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)



- 10-15-2019 **[If you get Medicare, some research and shopping might get you more for your money](#)**  
People who turn 65 soon discover Medicare isn't free. But the government-funded medical coverage for older Americans is still a good deal when compared to what younger people pay for health care. Still, many people covered by Medicare may not be getting the most for... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)
- 10-15-2019 **[Pa. Game Commission to hold public events to educate about Chronic Wasting Disease](#)**  
As Pennsylvania continues the battle against Chronic Wasting Disease in whitetail deer, the Game Commission is taking measures to better educate hunters and non-hunter about the neurological disease. The containment area in Pennsylvania recently expanded by 2,000 square... - [York Daily](#)
- 10-15-2019 **[Research: Depression leads reasons for mental health hospitalizations](#)**  
Pennsylvanians checked into hospitals for mental disorders at a rate of 312 a day last year, according to a research brief published last week. In Northeast Pennsylvania, Luzerne County led with the greatest portion of its population hospitalized at a rate of 104.2 admissions per 10,000... - [Wilkes-Barre Citizens' Voice](#)
- 10-15-2019 **[Reading City Council backs plan for triage center for homeless](#)**  
Reading City Council gave its support to a proposal to help homeless people in the city. Jack Williams, executive director of the Berks County Coalition to End Homelessness, told council Monday night he's close to being able to provide council with a cost estimate for his plan.... - [Reading Eagle](#)
- 10-15-2019 **[Editorial: Health coverage shouldn't hinge on court ruling](#)**  
The Issue: A lawsuit that threatens the Affordable Care Act's survival was condemned recently by U.S. Sen. Bob Casey Jr. Our Opinion: The Democrat is right to say that Republicans owe the country a replacement plan that secures the benefits of the 2010 law known as Obamacare.... - [Reading Eagle](#)
- 10-15-2019 **["Working together," Greene establishes first-ever Drug Court](#)**  
A state grant will provide Greene County residents charged with certain drug or drug-related crimes a chance at rehabilitation through a county drug court. Chris Gardner, court assistant for program development in Greene County, said she came out of retirement four years ago to apply for the \$150,000... - [Uniontown Herald-Standard](#)
- 10-15-2019 **[What we know about the death in the ER at WellSpan York Hospital](#)**  
And roughly 3½ hours after arriving at the hospital by ambulance, the man was dead, according a patient care inspection report by the Pennsylvania Department of Health. While many questions are still unanswered, the inspection report provides some insight into what unfolded in the emergency room on Aug. 16 and what... - [York Daily](#)
- 10-15-2019 **[Riding program needs help for horses](#)**  
CHAMBERSBURG — Kim Battin has spent most of her time recently surfing the internet looking for a perfect match — strength, age, experience and a good personality. “I troll them,” she said with a grin. Battin is the stable manager for the Franklin County 4H Therapeutic Riding... - [Waynesboro Record Herald](#)
- 10-15-2019 **[Flu vaccines prevent widespread illness](#)**  
Area physicians are advising people to get their flu vaccines early, as some have already seen suspected cases of the flu in their offices. - [Huntingdon Daily News](#)



- 10-15-2019 **Are companies acting in haste?**  
A new public health scare has surfaced, and this one has nothing to do with e-cigarettes and vaping. Instead, it involves millions of people who take drugs to reduce the amount of acid in their digestive tracts. A very popular over-the-counter drug, Zantac, has been taken off the... - [Williamsport Sun-Gazette](#)
- 10-15-2019 **Cancer support group forced to relocate, but remains on target**  
The New Castle Cancer Support Group was displaced, but it is far from disbanded. The group had been meeting monthly at the downtown Eat'n Park restaurant, until that business closed earlier this year. Since then, the group has been gathering at 6:30 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month... - [New Castle News](#)
- 10-15-2019 **Lowman S. Henry: Free market key to new drug development**  
Sen. Pat Toomey continues to protect Pennsylvania's seniors by standing strong for free market principles. He was one of the few members of the Senate Finance Committee to vote against a disastrous Medicare reform plan. The package contains one particularly damaging provision that, if enacted,... - [Phoenixville News](#)
- 10-15-2019 **Pitt Study Finds Large Number Of Transgender Teens Have Suicidal Thoughts**  
Suicidal thoughts are a common occurrence among transgender teens, according to a new study from the University of Pittsburgh. About 85 percent of the 1,134 transgender adolescents surveyed said they'd experienced serious suicidal thoughts. The mental health of transgender teens is rarely studied, said Brian Thoma,... - [WESA 90.5](#)
- 10-15-2019 **Penn Medicine LG Health plans \$48M proton therapy center that will be Pennsylvania's 2nd**  
Penn Medicine Lancaster General Health is spending \$48 million on a one-room proton therapy facility, with leaders saying they believe the cancer-fighting technology is worth the cost. The new facility, to open in fall 2021, will have capacity for up to 30 patient visits a day.... - [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#)
- 10-15-2019 **More than 150 teens have fallen ill from vaping. Is it enough to make their peers stop?**  
.The news says it.s bad for your health,. a high school senior in Cary, N.C., recalls telling his friends in a group chat. He urged them to stop. But these were the same forums where some teens were starting to parody their classmates for quitting vaping, and where high school vape dealers .... - [Washington Post](#)
- 10-15-2019 **Analysis | The Health 202: Voters want 2020 candidates to debate health care - not just Medicare-for-all**  
If the fourth Democratic presidential debate goes anything like the last three, the candidates will spar vigorously tonight over how to get health coverage to more Americans. But so far, in their fixation on how people obtain insurance, they've spent little time debating the skyrocketing costs for premiums, deductibles and... - [Washington Post](#)
- 10-15-2019 **UPMC Magee-Womens Hospital worker featured on 'Good Morning America'**  
It doesn't take Mary Ellen Kremer long to put a little sparkle into the day-to-day lives of patients at UPMC Magee-Womens Hospital in Oakland, and her simple act of kindness caught the attention of ABC's "Good Morning America." Kremer, a patient services representative at the hospital, was featured on... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)



- 10-15-2019 **[Hershey Med plans to acquire Holy Spirit Hospital](#)**  
Penn State Health plans to become the owner of Geisinger Holy Spirit in Cumberland County, the two said on Tuesday morning. It would mark a joining of two well-regarded central Pennsylvania health care institutions whose fortunes have headed in opposite directions in a... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)
- 10-15-2019 **[Township gives final OK to build senior housing on former golf course](#)**  
Upper Saucon Township's Locust Valley Golf Course will officially be converted into an age-qualified community by Traditions of America. The final land development plan for the project was approved 5-0 by the township's board of supervisors on Monday night. Board member Stephen Wagner believes TOA's plan is best for the... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 10-15-2019 **[The WHO must listen: Docs want change in Ebola vaccination protocol](#)**  
Eradicating the deadly disease will require cooperation among global health authorities The effort to end the terrible threat of the Ebola virus took a hopeful leap forward this year with the development of an effective vaccine. When combined with an intravenous drug therapy that can cure Ebola in... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 10-15-2019 **[Too many unanswered questions about vaping | Editorial](#)**  
Amid the genuinely frightening, and in some instances, tragic stories of death and life-changing injury, along with dramatic talk about an epidemic, the urge to have the government do something can overwhelm common sense. New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy last month made a logical move by appointing a... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 10-15-2019 **['Gold standard' bill to legalize recreational weed in Pa. to be introduced in Harrisburg today](#)**  
It's perhaps the most audacious piece of legislation proposed to legalize recreational cannabis for adults. Two Pennsylvania State Senators are introducing SB350 in Harrisburg today and it contains just about everything a cannabis advocate would love. There are provisions for growing cannabis at home, expungement of all cannabis... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 10-15-2019 **[Hershey Med parent plans to acquire Holy Spirit system](#)**  
Penn State Health plans to become the owner of Geisinger Holy Spirit in Cumberland County, the two said on Tuesday morning. It would mark a joining of two well-regarded central Pennsylvania health care systems whose fortunes have headed in opposite directions in a rapidly... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)
- 10-15-2019 **[Terminally ill patients should be able to end their lives under a doctor's care | PennLive letters](#)**  
Euthanasia is the ending of one's life with the assistance of a doctor. It is permitted in several countries and about seven states in the USA and is permitted only for terminally ill (six months?) patients. I would like to make a case that an elderly person, 85 years and older (?) is basically a... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)
- 10-15-2019 **[Pennsylvania exceeds national rate of rising STD cases](#)**  
The number of sexually transmitted diseases climbed again last year in the United States, with Pennsylvania's rate of increase exceeding the national average. It was the fifth consecutive year that gonorrhea, chlamydia and syphilis cases went up, according to the Centers for Disease and Prevention's annual... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)



- 10-15-2019 **[Philadelphia is a city in trauma. Now what are we going to do about it? | Helen Ubiñas](#)**  
We talk a lot about trauma in Philadelphia. Never enough, though, or in a way that meaningfully addresses the daily terror. Not because we don't have ample examples . man, do we have examples: the constant shootings, the staggering loss of life, the neglect of citizens,... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 10-15-2019 **[University of the Sciences launches its first fully online programs in partnership with Geisinger](#)**  
The University of the Sciences Tuesday announced it will develop its first fully online programs in partnership with Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine in Scranton. Six masters-level degrees and graduate certificates will be offered in genomics, health administration, and health informatics, beginning in... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 10-15-2019 **[Suicide attempts rising for black teens, study shows](#)**  
The new study, which analyzed data from 198,540 high school students collected by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Youth Risk Behavior Survey, also found that almost one in five high school students had thoughts about suicide. About one in 10 had a suicide plan.... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 10-14-2019 **[Pennsylvania's opioid crisis has made more grandparents primary caregivers. They need state support. | Opinion](#)**  
All across Pennsylvania, grandparents are stepping up to provide care for their grandchildren as a result of the devastating opioid crisis or other difficult circumstances. Right now, there are currently an estimated 89,000 households statewide where older Pennsylvanians are caring for... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 10-14-2019 **[A mother's recovery story relies on new brand of medical relationship](#)**  
Rachel Radke, 29, held her smiling 8½-month son, Ari, as he stretched himself up, standing tall in her lap as she spoke with a visitor in her Wilkesburg home. "It's been a wonderful experience," she said, recalling her time with the Pregnancy Recovery Center at Magee-Womens Hospital of UPMC... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 10-14-2019 **[As Medicare open enrollment nears, seniors may find redesigned website is a work in progress](#)**  
Beginning Tuesday, seniors across the U.S. can select their best option for a 2020 Medicare plan by going online and using the redesigned Medicare.gov plan finder website. If Les Anticich's experience is any indication, they may be in for a surprise when they do.... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 10-14-2019 **[Predicting the flu: Carnegie Mellon rewarded for innovative work in flu forecasting](#)**  
CMU has stepped up with a creative strategy for bettering public health Long at the forefront of advances in robotics and computer science, researchers at Carnegie Mellon University have added to the institution's reputation for innovation with pioneering work in the... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 10-14-2019 **[Cure waste in health system](#)**  
American health care is by far the most expensive in the world. It accounts for about 18 percent of the entire economy and costs more than \$10,000 per person every year. Now, a major study published Oct. 7 in the Journal of the American Medical Association has concluded that between 20% and 25% of that spending is... - [Scranton Times](#)



- 10-14-2019 **[Uniontown Hospital doctor came into emergency medicine in its infancy](#)**  
Dr. Cataldo Corrado was destined to become a doctor. His father was a family doctor known throughout the Uniontown community, and passed on his name to his son. The younger Corrado was born the youngest of eight children. His father wanted to name his first two sons after him, but his mother protested.... - [Uniontown Herald-Standard](#)
- 10-14-2019 **['Father of EMS' in Fayette County reflects on challenges, history of ambulance services](#)**  
Dr. Cataldo Corrado is known as the “father of EMS” in Fayette County for founding the first local ambulance services. Decades later, at age 82, he is still fighting for the ambulance services in hopes of keeping them afloat. “I’m very afraid of what’s going to happen in the next five to... - [Uniontown Herald-Standard](#)
- 10-14-2019 **[Reach for the Stars Buddy Walk raises hope, funds for people with Down syndrome](#)**  
When Abigail Henry was diagnosed with Down syndrome, there were no parent support groups and few opportunities for those with the genetic disorder, her mother, Nancy Henry, said. “Twenty years ago, there was nothing,” Nancy said. “There were no college or job training programs.”... - [Reading Eagle](#)
- 10-14-2019 **[Dozens of doses of naloxone have saved overdosing drug users in Berks since 2018 \[Ask the Eagle reports\]](#)**  
In late 2017, Gov. Tom Wolf and his administration were scrambling for solutions to Pennsylvania's rapidly worsening opioid epidemic and to stem the tide of fatal drug overdoses. The previous year, a total of 4,642 people died in the state of drug overdoses, a 37% increase from 2015. Berks County and surrounding counties... - [Reading Eagle](#)
- 10-14-2019 **[Perspective | Medicare open enrollment starts Oct. 15. Do a checkup on your coverage.](#)**  
If you’re covered under Medicare, don’t let complacency prevent you from reviewing your health insurance options and maybe saving some money. Open enrollment for Medicare begins Oct. 15 and ends Dec. 7. It is during this period that those covered by Medicare — people 65 and older —... - [Washington Post](#)
- 10-14-2019 **[He Tried E-Cigarettes to Quit Smoking. Doctors Say Vaping Led to His Death.](#)**  
In the spring, Kathleen Fimple buried her husband, John, and by the fall, she had reluctantly settled into her new life as a widow. She accepted what the doctors told her: that he had died at 68 from respiratory failure and pulmonary disease after years of smoking... - [New York Times](#)
- 10-14-2019 **[E-Cigarettes Went Unchecked in 10 Years of F.D.A. Inaction](#)**  
In 2009, not long after Dr. Margaret Hamburg became commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration, a package arrived at her home. Inside was a clunky device called an e-cigarette. .It was my first exposure to this emerging, new technology,. Dr. Hamburg recalled.... - [New York Times](#)
- 10-14-2019 **[He Tried E-Cigarettes to Quit Smoking. Doctors Say Vaping Led to His Death.](#)**  
Months after John Steffen died in Nebraska, officials said his death was part of a mysterious outbreak of vaping-related deaths and illnesses. - [New York Times](#)
- 10-14-2019 **[Your Paycheck May Impact Your Heart Health](#)**  
The risk for cardiovascular disease may increase when a person’s income goes down, and decrease when it goes up. - [New York Times](#)



- 10-14-2019 **Helping Teenagers Quit Vaping**  
As vaping deaths rise, quitting has a new urgency. But experts say withdrawal can be even more challenging than from conventional cigarettes. - [New York Times](#)
- 10-14-2019 **Five Reasons the Diet Soda Myth Won't Die**  
The latest batch of news reports came last month, based on another study linking diet soda to an increased risk of death. As usual, the study (and some of the articles) lacked some important context and caused more worry than was warranted. There are specific... - [New York Times](#)
- 10-14-2019 **E-Cigarettes Went Unchecked in 10 Years of F.D.A. Inaction**  
In 2009, not long after Dr. Margaret Hamburg became commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration, a package arrived at her home. Inside was a clunky device called an e-cigarette. "It was my first exposure to this emerging, new technology," Dr. Hamburg recalled.... - [New York Times](#)
- 10-14-2019 **As Fairhill reels from weekend shooting, a reminder of government's role in preventing trauma | Opinion**  
There are two ways I can tell when my pediatric patients have lost a relative to gun violence. One is the mother, who is wearing the dead person's smiling face on her t-shirt. The other is the father, who has tattooed initials along with birthdates and death dates into the flesh of... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 10-14-2019 **Obesity rate for Pa. kids remains among highest in U.S.**  
Pennsylvania has 185,400 young people between the ages of 10 and 17 who are obese, according to newly released data. That amounts to 17.4 percent . the same as in recent years, but still the ninth highest rate in the United States, according a new report from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.... - [Penn Live](#), [Patriot-News](#)
- 10-14-2019 **Are you one of the millions of Americans who risks losing their healthcare this month? | PennLive Editorial**  
Amid all of the hoopla in Washington, Sen. Bob Casey is determined to keep Pennsylvanians focused on the bread and butter issues that are key to our everyday lives. And one of the most important issues is healthcare. Whether you're for the Affordable Healthcare Act or against it, we should... - [Penn Live](#), [Patriot-News](#)
- 10-14-2019 **Allentown residents warned of possible measles exposure after confirmed case at LVH**  
Lehigh Valley residents who visited four select medical facilities between October 7 and October 12 may have been exposed to measles, the Pennsylvania Department of Health warned residents Monday after getting report of a patient with measles at Lehigh Valley Hospital.... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 10-13-2019 **Mr. Yuk's mission: Poison centers still need public support**  
The country's 55 poison control centers help save on health care spending, but their funding cuts to be slashed We need to make up our mind about Mr. Yuk. The city of Pittsburgh celebrated last week the life and work of Dr. Richard W. Moriarty, the founder of the Pittsburgh Poison Center, who... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)



- 10-13-2019 **[Equitable treatment: Women of color need better access to cancer treatment](#)**  
First, the good news. The number of women dying from breast cancer has been in decline the past 30 years, and the latest breast cancer statistics report from the American Cancer Society shows that the trend has continued the last couple of years. The bad news: Despite the fact that breast cancer is killing fewer... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 10-13-2019 **[To flu shot, or not to flu shot?](#)**  
I hate getting the flu shot. It feels like someone punched me in the arm. Two days later and my left arm is still a little tender. Nevertheless, I suggest you don.t play around and skip the flu shot, and especially not this year, when the Centers for Disease Control are... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 10-13-2019 **[Generosity overwhelms homeless Chester County woman with cancer](#)**  
Depending on their generation, people either phoned or Facebooked, emailed or Instagrammed. While the means of connection varied, the message did not: What can I do to help? People who read an Inquirer story this week about the ordeal of Maureen Wall . a homeless Chester County woman with metastatic breast cancer that... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 10-13-2019 **[Judge will halt lawsuits against Purdue Pharma, its owners](#)**  
A judge will halt lawsuits against Purdue Pharma and its owners for six months in hopes of finalizing a settlement over the OxyContin maker.s role in the national opioid crisis, he said Friday... - [AP](#)
- 10-13-2019 **[Southwestern Pennsylvania residents renew calls for research on possible health impact of fracking](#)**  
As calls for better science on the health impact of unconventional natural gas drilling grew last week, the Pennsylvania Department of Health revealed that a new study found a slight increase in the expected number of cases of Ewing sarcoma, a rare bone cancer, among girls in Fayette, Greene,... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 10-13-2019 **[With Hahnemann closed, expect more shootings to turn into homicides | Brain Trust](#)**  
Giovanni Circo, a professor of criminal justice at the University of New Haven, and his coauthor, Andrew Wheeler, a professor of criminology and criminal justice at the University of Texas at Dallas, wanted to unpack the relationship between fatal and nonfatal shootings. Looking at data from... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 10-13-2019 **[State outlines winter preparations, guidance for public readiness](#)**  
With the winter season approaching, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Secretary Leslie S. Richards, Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission CEO Mark Compton, and Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency Director Randy Padfield held an event last week to outline the... - [Wilkes-Barre Times Leader](#)
- 10-13-2019 **[Letters to the Editor 10/12/2019](#)**  
Editor: Race for the Cure in NEPA is a spectacular event commemorating people who have survived or succumbed from breast cancer. I think it.s reprehensible that businessman Bob Bolus would try to politicize the event by bringing out his ridiculous .Trump truck.. He.s so... - [Scranton Times](#)



- 10-13-2019 **[Make-A-Wish needs volunteers to help critically ill children](#)**  
A group that grants wishes to critically ill children needs help. The nonprofit Make-A-Wish Foundation seeks volunteers in Bradford, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Lycoming, Monroe, Pike, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, Wayne and Wyoming counties. The volunteers serve as ambassadors between... - [Scranton Times](#)
- 10-13-2019 **[Is red meat good or bad for you? Latest research leaves some questions unanswered](#)**  
So is red meat good or bad for you?... - [AP](#)
- 10-13-2019 **[Abortion deaths outnumber gun deaths \(letter\)](#)**  
In 2017, there were 39,773 shooting deaths in the USA. Sixty percent of those were suicides committed with handguns (not long rifles). The media want everyone to believe semi-automatics (often called assault weapons) are an evil we should not have to live with and continually blame the National... - [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#)
- 10-13-2019 **[Fertility options for cancer patients must be covered under new California law](#)**  
California will require health insurance companies to cover the cost of fertility procedures for patients undergoing treatment that can make it difficult to have children, such as chemotherapy, under a bill signed by Gov. Gavin Newsom on Saturday. SB600 by state Sen. Anthony Portantino (D-La Cañada Flintridge)... - [Los Angeles Times](#)
- 10-13-2019 **[Judge grants Purdue Pharma, Sackler family pause in civil lawsuits](#)**  
A U.S. bankruptcy judge on Friday temporarily halted scores of lawsuits against Purdue Pharma and its owners, the Sackler family. Extending that relief to the Sacklers, who haven't filed for bankruptcy protection, is extraordinary but appropriate in this case, Judge Robert... - [Washington Post](#)
- 10-11-2019 **[At harm reduction hearing, advocates urge reform of "poor" drug policies](#)**  
Rep. Sara Innamorato (D-Allegheny) thinks of her father often. She attributes to him her love of public transit. He took her on her first rollercoaster ride, Innamorato recalled. And he died from a drug overdose after years of battling addiction. With those memories in mind and the opioid crisis raging on, this week... - [Pennsylvania Legislative Services](#)
- 10-11-2019 **[Rep. Ed Gainey appeals for statewide ban on assault weapons: 'We are raising a nation of young people ... with PTSD'](#)**  
Democratic state legislators urged Pittsburghers on Thursday to support a bill that would ban the use of some military-style rifles by everyone except service members and law enforcement personnel. The lawmakers also said hunters in Pennsylvania don't need the added... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 10-11-2019 **[Fighting suicide: central Pa. residents pour out their hearts as task force listens](#)**  
YORK—Dozens of people came to a community center to discuss suicide on Thursday night, providing gut-wrenching accounts of suicides of loved ones or describing their own suicide attempts. Or they told of constant worry about a suicidal loved one and their inability to find help.... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)
- 10-11-2019 **[How race, class, and privilege shape the asbestos crisis at two Philly high schools](#)**  
During her junior year, Mecca Taylor coped with near-constant construction noise in her high school, tools laying in the hallways, and dust everywhere. Her allergies acted up in a way they never had, and her friend's asthma was awful. "You could see your footprints [along dust-covered floors] when you... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)



- 10-11-2019 **Commissioners, Berks Heim unions cheer new agreement**  
After more than two years of tense negotiations, Berks County commissioners and representatives from the two unions representing workers at Berks Heim signed a new collective bargaining agreement that will ensure the county-owned nursing home remains in county hands through 2025.... - [Reading Eagle](#)
- 10-11-2019 **Health Officials Urge Caution in Reducing Opioids for Pain Patients**  
WASHINGTON — The Trump administration on Thursday instructed doctors to use more caution when taking chronic pain patients off opioid medications, a response to reports that many have been cutting off prescriptions too quickly, in some cases even dismissing patients from their practice.... - [New York Times](#)
- 10-11-2019 **Bucks County receives \$1.56M to remove lead from homes**  
Families in older housing in Bucks County that may have lead paint will be visited by a representative of the Bucks County Department of Health who will test for lead paint in the home. If the property qualifies, contractors to be hired by the county will perform the remediation work.... - [Levittown Bucks County Courier Times](#)
- 10-11-2019 **Senior housing, health care coming to former Community Hospital**  
CHESTER — City Council gave its support to one facet of the new Silvercare Nursing and Rehabilitation Campus under development on West Ninth Street during its regular meeting Wednesday morning. Council passed a resolution committing \$100,000 in HOME funds to a proposed 49-unit... - [Primos Delaware County Daily and Sunday Times](#)
- 10-11-2019 **Officials looking into source of bacteria**  
MAHONING TWP. — Geisinger physicians, with help from the state Department of Health, continue to search for the source of a bacteria that's blamed in the deaths of three premature infants since early August. Epidemiologists from the health department have been at Geisinger Medical... - [Sunbury Daily Item](#)
- 10-11-2019 **Geisinger starts fresh food program**  
LEWISTOWN — Geisinger hosted another ribbon cutting ceremony as it opened its third Fresh Food Farmacy in Lewistown. With the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank partnering with Geisinger, food is being given away for free to help those that cannot afford it. The program... - [Lewistown Sentinel](#)
- 10-11-2019 **LVH- Pocono recognized for patient safety**  
Five of Lehigh Valley Health Network's hospitals have been honored with The Hospital and Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania's Excellence in Patient Safety Recognition program. In addition to LVH-Pocono in East Stroudsburg, Cedar Crest in Allentown, Muhlenberg in Bethlehem, Hazleton, and Schuylkill E. Norwegian Street in... - [Pocono Record](#)
- 10-11-2019 **Federal court denies Yost's attempt to delay massive opioid litigation**  
The 6th U.S. District Court of Appeals has rejected Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost's most recent attempt to block litigation against opioid manufacturers, distributors and sellers by local governments. He believes the states should take the lead in the matter.... - [Columbus Dispatch](#)



10-11-2019 **California's new transparency law shows staggering rise in wholesale drug prices**  
Drugmakers fought hard against California's groundbreaking drug price transparency law, passed in 2017. Now, state health officials have released their first report on the price hikes those drug companies sought to shield. Pharmaceutical companies raised the "wholesale acquisition cost" of... - [Los Angeles Times](#)

10-11-2019 **Students find refuge at former charter, a synagogue and district headquarters amid asbestos construction**  
PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — After nearly two weeks of waiting in limbo, Ben Franklin High School and Science Leadership Academy students officially have places to resume their studies. The School District of Philadelphia announced on Thursday afternoon the... - [KYW News Radio 1060](#)



Health Care Recap is a comprehensive daily report on legislative and executive actions in the Pennsylvania capitol and is compiled and edited by PLS.

For subscription information, questions or more information contact PLS at [mypls@mypls.com](mailto:mypls@mypls.com) or 717-236-6984. Thank you, Lynn, Jeff, Mike, Matt Hess, Matt Hykes, Deborah, Cheryl, Aaron, Becky, Amyra, Nick, Nicole, Robert, Emily, Andrew, Shaun, Justin, Sheri, Harrison, and Sarah.

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