

Health News E Clips

An electronic healthcare news link service provided by the Utah Hospital Association
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Utah Healthcare Headlines

[Lawmakers advance bill allowing Utah cancer docs to dispense drugs](#) (Salt Lake Tribune, February 9, 2012) Allowing oncologists to dispense cancer-treatment drugs could endanger patients' lives, a Utah pharmacist warned lawmakers considering a change to state law.

- [Should Utah cancer doctors dispense drugs? Senate panel clears bill that would allow it](#) (Deseret News, February 8, 2012) Already undergoing chemotherapy and radiation treatment for breast cancer, Debra Berry received a prescription for a drug to ease her nausea and vomiting.

[Most Utah hospitals on hook for overbilling Medicaid](#) (Salt Lake Tribune, February 8, 2012) IASIS Healthcare isn't the only hospital chain accused of overbilling Utah's Medicaid program — they're just the first to fight back in court.

[House approves new task force to study air quality](#) (Salt Lake Tribune, February 8, 2012) The House approved the creation of a legislative task force to study poor air quality in Utah after some lawmakers complained information on the issue was scattered and incomplete — leaving them to tackle the issue in only a piecemeal fashion.

[Utah may lengthen abortion waiting period](#) (Salt Lake Tribune, February 8, 2012) Women seeking abortions in Utah would face a waiting period of 72 hours instead of the current 24 under a bill before the Legislature.

[Utah's Merit Medical gets FDA warning on product](#) (Salt Lake Tribune, February 8, 2012) Merit Medical Devices Inc., a South Jordan-based company that makes and markets disposable medical devices, said it has received a warning letter from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration over changes its made to one of its products that is manufactured in Ireland.

National Healthcare Headlines

[Obama advisers seek compromise on contraception rule](#) (Washington Post, February 7, 2012) A key White House adviser on faith issues said Tuesday that several organizations with ties to the administration have approached President Obama's aides about finding a resolution to fast-growing controversy over [a new rule requiring many Catholic institutions to offer birth control and other contraception services](#) as part of employees' health care coverage.

[Obama Tries to Ease Ire on Contraception Rule](#) (New York Times, February 8, 2012) Facing vocal opposition from religious leaders and an escalating political fight, the White House sought on Tuesday to ease mounting objections to a new administration rule that would require [health insurance](#) plans — including those offered by Catholic universities and charities — to offer [birth control](#) to women free of charge.

[Obama Seeks Deal on Birth Control](#) (Wall Street Journal, February 8, 2012) The White House is looking for a way to address the concerns of religious leaders upset by President Barack Obama's

decision to require religious employers to cover contraceptives in employee health plans, according to people familiar with the discussions.

- [Birth Control Is Covered, and G.O.P. Vows a Fight](#) (New York Times, February 9, 2012) Congressional Republicans, seizing on the type of social issue that motivates and unifies their base, stepped forcefully Wednesday into the battle over an Obama administration rule requiring [health insurance](#) plans provided by Catholic universities and charities to offer free [birth control](#) to women, vowing to fight back with legislation to unravel the new policy.
- [GOP Legislators Take Aim at Contraceptive Rule](#) (Wall Street Journal, February 9, 2012) Republicans said Wednesday they would push ahead with legislation to block the Obama administration's requirement that virtually all health-insurance plans cover contraception, as religious leaders and women's groups dug in for a prolonged fight over the issue.

[What Doctors Are Telling Us Even When They're Not Talking](#) (New York Times, February 9, 2012) I recently read through a [study published in The Journal of General Internal Medicine](#) on the different ways that African-American and white doctors communicate nonverbally with older patients, and I was reminded of a former colleague, a specialist in brain tumors who stood out from the rest of us young doctors for two reasons.

[New Way to Pay Doctors](#) (Wall Street Journal, February 9, 2012) Efforts to change how Americans pay for health care are gathering momentum on a national scale as UnitedHealth Group Inc., the largest U.S. health insurer, becomes the latest carrier to say it is overhauling its fees for medical providers.

[In Small California Hospitals, the Marketing of Back Surgery](#) (Wall Street Journal, February 9, 2012) Consuelo Solorio, a middle-aged tomato-cannery employee, traveled three hours from her home in the San Joaquin Valley to have spine surgery here for an injury from tumbling off a ladder.

[Male Genes May Explain Higher Heart Disease Risk](#) (New York Times, February 9, 2012) Although heart disease is the leading killer of women as well as of men, two heart disease patients out of every three are male, and heart disease strikes men 10 to 15 years earlier than it does women. No one really knows why.

[Blood Levels of Trans Fats Are Declining in Americans](#) (New York Times, February 9, 2012) The intense battle that public health advocates have waged against trans fats appears to be working: A new report shows that since 2000, levels of trans fats in Americans' bloodstreams have plummeted nearly 60 percent.

[Memory Gets Jolt in Brain Research](#) (Wall Street Journal, February 9, 2012) An electrical brain-stimulation technique used to treat Parkinson's disease and chronic pain appears to enhance human memory as well, according to a tiny but intriguing new study that bolsters hope for one day developing a nondrug treatment for memory problems, including ailments like Alzheimer's disease.

[New Guide to Who Really Shouldn't Eat Gluten](#) (Wall Street Journal, February 9, 2012) You've got abdominal pains, bloating, fatigue and foggy thinking. You feel worse after eating wheat or other foods with gluten, and better when you avoid them.

[As generic for Plavix nears, long-running battle ends](#) (Salt Lake Tribune, February 9, 2012) Just three months before the world's second-best-selling drug gets U.S. generic competition, a company has paid nearly \$445 million to finally end a decadelong, twist-filled patent infringement battle with two heavyweight drugmakers over blood thinner Plavix.