

Health News E Clips

An electronic healthcare news link service provided by the Utah Hospital Association
Tuesday, January 31, 2012

Utah Healthcare Headlines

[Where's the baby? Utah births still declining](#) (Salt Lake Tribune, January 30, 2012) The economy may be showing signs of recovery but the stork is still delivering fewer babies to Utah families, according to Utah hospitals.

[Utah hospitals join partnership to provide safer facilities for patients](#) (Deseret News, January 31, 2012) Twelve years ago, 28 percent of the more than 30,000 babies born annually at Intermountain Healthcare hospitals were induced.

[Clark resigns from Intermountain Healthcare](#) (Provo Daily Herald, January 27, 2012) David Clark, regional vice president for Intermountain Healthcare, announced his resignation Thursday. He will leave his post in early March.

[Hospitals sue over nearly \\$3 mil. in disputed Medicaid funds](#) (KSL.com, Deseret News, January 28, 2012) A group of local hospitals were told they were overpaid nearly \$3 million by Medicaid, and now the government wants the money back.

[Medicaid co-pay for smokers not ready for vote](#) (Salt Lake Tribune, January 27, 2012) A proposal to require smokers to pay more for Medicaid services than others on the program is not ready for prime time.

- [Bill seeks surcharge for Utah smokers on Medicaid](#) (USA Today, January 31, 2012) If private health insurers can add a surcharge for smokers, why not Medicaid?

[Radiologist adds to debate on breast-cancer screenings](#) (Salt Lake Tribune, January 31, 2012) Advice to local doctors from the chief radiologist at one of the nation's leading medical schools: Mammography remains the most effective and affordable tool for detecting breast cancer and, for women with average risk of developing the disease, annual screening should begin at age 40.

[KUTV's Mary Nickles on her breast cancer battle](#) (Salt Lake Tribune, January 31, 2012) Popular KUTV television news anchor Mary Nickles was diagnosed with breast cancer last month after a routine mammogram screening.

National Healthcare Headlines

[Ruling on Contraception Draws Battle Lines at Catholic Colleges](#) (New York Times, January 29, 2012) Bridgette Dunlap, a Fordham University law student, knew that the school's health plan had to pay for [birth control](#) pills, in keeping with New York state law. What she did not find out until she was in an examining room, "in the paper dress," was that the student health service — in keeping with Roman Catholic tenets — would simply refuse to prescribe them.

- [Birth Control and Reproductive Rights](#) (Editorial, New York Times, January 29, 2012) It was good news that the Obama administration withstood pressure from Roman Catholic bishops and social conservatives to deny contraceptive coverage for millions of American women who work for religiously affiliated employers.

- [Catholics blast federal birth control mandate](#) (USA Today, January 30, 2012) From Maine to Phoenix to southern Louisiana, Catholic churches across the [USA](#) this weekend echoed with scorn for a new federal rule requiring faith-based employers to include birth control and other reproductive services in their health care coverage.

[Health Costs, Regardless of Your Politics](#) (Opinion, New York Times, January 29, 2012) Dr. Emanuel is correct that no Americans, including liberals, can ignore escalating health care costs. Unfortunately, this is exactly what he and the rest of the Obama administration did in passing the Affordable Care Act.

[When health plans go high deductible](#) (Washington Post, January 29, 2012) As health costs rise, employers are increasingly turning to high-deductible health plans: Insurance coverage that usually pairs catastrophic coverage with a health savings account, leaving consumers to decide what to spend that account on.

[The End of Health Insurance Companies](#) (Opinion, New York Times, January 31, 2012) Here's a bold prediction for the new year. By 2020, the American health insurance industry will be extinct. Insurance companies will be replaced by accountable care organizations – groups of doctors, hospitals and other health care providers who come together to provide the full range of medical care for patients.

[Some doctors try to squelch online reviews](#) (Washington Post, January 28, 2012) Fuming about a billing dispute with his dentist, Robert Allen Lee posted his complaints on two consumer review Web sites, triggering a legal battle over a technique designed to snuff out negative online commentary.

[Many tests, treatments not necessary](#) (USA Today, January 31, 2012) Many patients would be surprised to realize how little of the medicine they receive is actually backed by evidence, says [Otis Brawley](#), author of *How We Do Harm: A Doctor Breaks Ranks About Being Sick in America*.

[Doctor exposes the dangers of overtreatment](#) (USA Today, January 31, 2012) The woman walked quietly into the busy emergency room at [Grady Memorial Hospital](#), Atlanta's safety net hospital for the poor and uninsured. She waited four or five hours to be seen, sitting patiently on a gurney and clutching a plastic bag.

[Report: Electronic health records still need work](#) (Boston Globe, AP, January 27, 2012) America may be a technology-driven nation, but the health care system's conversion from paper to computerized records needs lots of work to get the bugs out, according to experts who spent months studying the issue.

[Six intriguing health care start-up ideas](#) (Washington Post, January 28, 2012) Start-ups in mobile health raise more than \$700,000 on average, according to data from AngelList, more than food and deals companies. Here are a few unique businesses in the health space.

[Pediatrician in your pocket](#) (USA Today, January 30, 2012) If you tend to be a [Google-chondriac](#) – someone who obsessively researches health issues online – sorting through the results for the best advice can waste a lot of time. Now imagine being that way – and a parent.

[Long shifts may raise some nurses' odds for obesity](#) (USA Today, January 30, 2012) Nurses who work long hours and have less physically demanding jobs are much more likely to be obese than other nurses, according to a new study.

[The Shortfall in Cancer Screening](#) (Editorial, New York Times, January 31, 2012) A new federal study found that Americans are getting screened for three major cancers – breast, cervical and colorectal – at rates far below national targets.

[VA struggling with disability backlog](#) (Washington Post, January 29, 2012) The Department of Veterans Affairs is facing a growing backlog of disability claims, fueled by veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan and a policy change making it easier for Vietnam veterans to file Agent Orange-related claims.

[For Soldier Disfigured in War, a Way to Return to the World](#) (New York Times, January 31, 2012) Specialist Joey Paulk awoke from a coma in a Texas hospital three weeks after he was burned nearly to death in [Afghanistan](#). Wrapped in bandages from head almost to toe, he immediately saw his girlfriend and mother, and felt comforted.

[New Chief Unveils Plan to Revive Disease-Fighting Fund](#) (Wall Street Journal, January 30, 2012) The new chief of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria plans a major overhaul of operations following an assessment urging improved management.

[Oral cancer virus affects 7 percent of Americans](#) (Boston Globe, January 26, 2012) About 16 million Americans have oral HPV, a sexually transmitted virus more commonly linked with cervical cancer that also can cause mouth cancer, according to the first nationwide estimate.

[Home births increasing, but numbers still small](#) (Deseret News, January 28, 2012) The number of women giving birth at home increased 29 percent from 2004 to 2009, according to a [new report](#) by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

[Ritalin Gone Wrong](#) (Opinion, New York Times, January 28, 2012) Three million children in this country take drugs for problems in focusing. Toward the end of last year, many of their parents were deeply alarmed because there was a [shortage of drugs like Ritalin and Adderall](#) that they considered absolutely essential to their children's functioning.

[Medical Mysteries: Seizures hit baby girl soon after she had routine shots](#) (Washington Post, January 31, 2012) "[Men in Black](#)" was flickering on the screen, and Laura Cossolotto and her husband were enjoying a rare night at the movies in their home town of Centerville, Iowa, when her brother-in-law rushed into the darkened theater.

[Carpool parents often don't put kids in booster seats](#) (USA Today, January 30, 2012) Parents who buckle children into protective booster seats when riding in the family car are often not as conscientious when carpooling, a study finds.

[Unexplained fevers can be signs of serious illness](#) (Washington Post, January 31, 2012) No medical mystery is more challenging than a fever of unknown origin. An FUO is defined as an elevated body temperature that lasts for three or more weeks without an explanation, according to Marvin M. Lipman, Consumer Reports' chief medical adviser.

[Take Blood Pressure in Both Arms, Study Says](#) (New York Times, January 30, 2012) Doctors who make a habit of measuring blood pressure in only one arm may be doing their patients a disservice.

[Researchers identify factors linked to menopause onset](#) (USA Today, January 30, 2012) New genetic factors associated with a woman's age when she begins menopause have been identified by an international team of researchers.

[Caffeine may alter women's estrogen levels, study says](#) (USA Today, January 30, 2012) Caffeine changes women's estrogen levels and has different effects in Asian and white women, a new study says.

[Fewer Beds for Men Entering Nursing Homes](#) (New York Times, January 30, 2012) Searching for a nursing home for his hospitalized father in semi-rural Massachusetts, a friend of mine recently came up against an unexpected barrier. It's harder to find a bed for a man than for a woman.

[Doctors Track Patients' Mood, Social Life to Manage Illness](#) (Wall Street Journal, January 31, 2012) When Amy Messier was preparing to undergo back surgery, doctors asked her to fill out a survey with an unusual question: "Have you felt so down in the dumps that nothing could cheer you up?"

[Searching for Side Effects](#) (Wall Street Journal, January 31, 2012) You're taking a new medication and have dry mouth and feel dizzy. Want to know how many other people have reported those side effects—and how your drug compares with similar drugs?

[A New Target in Fighting Brain Disease: Metals](#) (Wall Street Journal, January 31, 2012) Research into how iron, copper, zinc and other metals work in the brain may help unlock some of the secrets of degenerative diseases like Alzheimer's and Parkinson's.

[Agencies, Drug Makers, Gates Target 10 Diseases](#) (Wall Street Journal, January 31, 2012) The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, government aid agencies and a clutch of drug companies pledged nearly \$800 million and an increased drug supply toward a new push to wipe out 10 tropical diseases by 2020.

[Slapping On a Skin Patch to Combat Hay Fever](#) (Wall Street Journal, January 31, 2012) Skin patches coated with allergens may be a more convenient and effective way to treat hay fever than current methods, according to a study in the Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology.

[New Type of Cancer Drug Gets Approval](#) (Wall Street Journal, January 31, 2012) The Food and Drug Administration approved a new type of drug developed by the U.S. unit of [Roche Holding](#) AG to treat advanced cases of basal-cell skin cancer, the most common type of skin cancer.

[J&J Shakes Up Consumer Unit Again](#) (Wall Street Journal, January 31, 2012) Johnson & Johnson is shaking up oversight of the troubled unit that makes Tylenol and other over-the-counter medicines once again, naming new leadership less than a year after manufacturing problems sparked a revamp.