

Health Care Headlines

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2017 CT Legislative session opens: health care one of many issues



The 2017 Connecticut General Assembly session began [yesterday](#). This is a budget session, where legislators put together a budget for the next biennium (2017-2019) and the session runs until June 4. Here's a primer of [what to know](#), and "[there are no shortage of issues for lawmakers to address in 2017](#)" (Stuart, Jan 3, CTNewsJunkie).

5 health care stories to watch in the 2017 legislative session



The new year is likely to bring lots of potential changes in health care policy at the federal level, as President-elect Donald J. Trump and Republicans in Congress are expected to take on Obamacare, Medicaid and, potentially, Medicare.

But there will also be plenty of health care issues debated in Connecticut's Capitol during the upcoming legislative session, which began Wednesday, Jan. 4. Here's a look at a few stories to watch.

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The health care progress women have made since the 1960s is under threat from Congress and the incoming Trump administration.

Here are a few examples of what is at stake, if the effort to [repeal the Affordable Care Act](#) (ACA) succeeds:

- Taking away coverage of birth control as a preventive health service that is available without a copay
- Dropping maternity care as an essential benefit covered by all health insurance policies
- Using the ACA repeal bill to defund Planned Parenthood, including barring them from accepting Medicaid and taking away other federal family planning grants

Repealing ObamaCare means contending with social media



Congress and President-elect Trump have made it clear that repealing ObamaCare is a top priority. With the rise of social media's influence on public opinion, though, it might end up being a tougher sell to the American people than they anticipated.

Estimates show that if the ACA was replaced today with no replacement plan, over [20 million people would lose their health insurance](#). There would be news stories about people losing coverage, but very few readers would have a direct connection with the central figures in articles. However, social media allows for everyone to hear a heartbreaking story from somebody that they know on a personal level.

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