Public Health News Releases and Updates

- Pew Research Center: The 10 Largest Hispanic Origin Groups: Characteristics, Rankings, Top Counties
- HIT Adoption in Behavioral Health, New Report Available
- Adolescent Health Insider: Teens and the HIV/AIDS Epidemic
- VA to Provide Veterans with Vouchers for Health IT Competency Exams
- Congress investigates air leak, possible safety lapses at CDC lab
- Digital Storytelling: A Community Tool to End HIV Stigma
- Airflow problems plague CDC bioterror lab – USATODAY.com
- HRSA launches Grants Technical Assistance webpage
- NCCAM website and resources - CAM Complimentary and Alternative Medicine
- Few U.S. Hispanics Screened for Skin Cancer
- Closing racial and ethnic gaps in access to care
- State of the World’s Mothers Report
- Shots - Health Blog: Patients Crusade For Access To Their Medical Device Data
- Announcement of Efforts to Increase Hispanic Participation in STEM Fields:

- United States and Mexico make efforts to strengthen US-Mexican bi-national health
  Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius and Mexico Secretary of Health Salomón Chertorivski today announced a series of new steps to strengthen health security cooperation between the two countries. The health secretaries outlined these efforts during the 65th World Health Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland.

- Effective healthcare communication policies and practices, including provider health literacy, contribute to improving the quality of services for culturally and linguistically diverse
populations as well as people with limited health literacy skills.

- **Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) releases important new guidance on Affordable Insurance Exchanges, of relevance to Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Programs (CHIP).**

- **FCC Announcement to adopt the plan for so-called Medical Body Area Networks**

- **Statement from HHS Assistant Secretary for Health Dr. Howard Koh**
  Millions of Americans have chronic viral hepatitis, but up to 75 percent of those infected do not know it. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ action plan for Combating the Silent Epidemic of Viral Hepatitis designated May 19 as the first-ever National Hepatitis Testing Day. This day is part of a larger government-wide initiative to educate people about viral hepatitis and to encourage everyone to talk to their health care provider about whether they are at risk.

- **U.S. Hits a Demographic Milestone**

- **Gay, Lesbian and Transgender Health Updates:** Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered individuals (LGBT) experience differences in receipt of health care services and are sometimes denied services. This fact sheet summarizes key findings from the *National Healthcare Disparities Report* (NHDR) related to health care for the LGBT population.

- **AHRQ-Funded Study Finds Patient Characteristics and Preferences Can Impact the Use of Patient Portals:** Those who enroll and use a patient portal have different demographic characteristics and interest levels in selected portal functions (e.g., emailing providers, viewing medical record on-line, making appointments) than those who don’t use a patient portal, according to a new study funded by AHRQ. The study examines differences among primary care patients’ perceptions when contemplating using, enrolling to use, and experiences using a portal for healthcare purposes. The article suggests that while many patients may indicate a “hypothetical” interest in using such a portal, those who actually enroll and use portals may represent a unique subgroup of a practice’s or health system’s population. The article also suggests that patients initially perceive only limited improvements in care because of the portal. These differences have potential market implications, and can provide insight into how practices select and maintain portal functions of greater interest to patients using the portal. The study, “Consistency of Patient Preferences about a Secure Internet-based Patient Communications Portal: Contemplating, Enrolling, and Using,” was published in the April 18, 2012 edition of *Journal of Medical Quality.*

- **HRSA Announces Funding Availability to Support New Part C Programs Offering Early HIV Intervention Services:** The HIV/AIDS Bureau (HAB) of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) issued a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) that will support between 5 and 10 new Part C programs. Offering HIV early intervention services (EIS) in areas of the country where the HIV epidemic is increasing, demand for services has increased, and the availability of other HIV/AIDS services is limited.
• **Live On Twitter @CDCObesity**: Connect for daily information related to nutrition, physical activity, and obesity. DNPAO announces the presence in the social media space. The official Twitter feed, @CDCObesity, provides daily information that addresses the obesity epidemic. Follow for information that can help shape where you live, learn, work, and play into healthier communities.

• **WHO Bulletin - Special theme: e-health, Volume 90, Number 5, May 2012**: This issue includes articles on the following topics: Big possibilities for the future of health, how to measure impact, experts discuss the big issues, keeping track of influenza in Madagascar, using mobile phones for HIV diagnosis in Zambia, changing behavior through m-health, improving patient care in Brazil

**EDITORIALS**
- Najeeb Al-Shorbaji & Antoine Geissbuhler: Establishing an evidence base for e-health: the proof is in the pudding
- JEWC van Gemert-Pijnen, S Wynchank, HD Covvey & HC Ossebaard: Improving the credibility of electronic health technologies
- Measuring the impact of e-health
- E-health's future frontiers
- The bigger picture for e-health

**RESEARCH**
- Trevor Lewis, Christina Synowiec, Gina Lagomarsino & Julian Schweitzer: E-health in low- and middle-income countries: findings from the Center for Health Market Innovations
- Richard Wootton, Antoine Geissbuhler, Kamal Jethwani, Carrie Kovarik, Donald A Person, Anton Vladymyrskyy, Paolo Zanaboni & Maria Zolfo: Long-running telemedicine networks delivering humanitarian services: experience, performance and scientific output
- Phil Seidenberg, Stephen Nicholson, Merrick Schaefer, Katherine Semrau, Maximillian Bweupe, Noel Masese, Rachael Bonawitz, Lastone Chitembo, Caitlin Goggin & Donald M Thea: Early infant diagnosis of HIV infection in Zambia through mobile phone texting of blood test results
- Director’s Page NIH National Institute on Drug Abuse

**SYSTEMATIC REVIEWS**
- Frances S Mair, Carl May, Catherine O’Donnell, Tracy Finch, Frank Sullivan & Elizabeth Murray
  Factors that promote or inhibit the implementation of e-health systems: an explanatory systematic review

**POLICY & PRACTICE**
- John D Piette, KC Lun, Lincoln A Moura, Hamish SF Fraser, Patricia N Mechael, John Powell & Shariq R Khoja: Impacts of e-health on the outcomes of care in low- and middle-income countries: where do we go from here?

**LESSONS FROM THE FIELD**
- Maria Beatriz Alkmim, Renato Minelli Figueira, Milena Soriano Marcolino, Clareci Silva Cardoso, Monica Pena de Abreu, Lemuel Rodrigues Cunha, Daniel Ferreira da Cunha,
Andre Pires Antunes, Adélson Geraldo de A Resende, Elmiro Santos Resende & Antonio Luiz Pinho Ribeiro: **Improving patient access to specialized health care: the Telehealth Network of Minas Gerais, Brazil**

Jørn Braa, Arthur Heywood & Sundeep Sahay: **Improving quality and use of data through data-use workshops: Zanzibar, United Republic of Tanzania**


**PERSPECTIVES**

- Harsha Thirumurthy & Richard T Lester: **M-health for health behaviour change in resource-limited settings: applications to HIV care and beyond**
- Alastair van Heerden et al.: **Point of care in your pocket: a research agenda for the field of m-health**
- S Yunkap Kwankam: **Successful partnerships for international collaboration in e-health: the need for organized national infrastructures**
- John-Arne Røttingen et al.: **Securing the public good of health research and development for developing countries**

- **HHS Awards Community Health Centers**: The Health and Human Services has awarded $728 million to build and expand community health centers. The awards will improve care, expand access to new patients, and create jobs. Community health centers currently provide primary care to 20 million Americans.

- **Community Health Funding Report**: Packed with page after page of newly-researched private and federal grant opportunities and exclusive insider advice on a wide range of grants for health programs serving the underinsured, minorities, seniors, children and others throughout the nation.

- **Women's Successful Transition and Reentry into the Community from Prison - Request for Proposals (RFP)**: Funding is available for the planning and implementation of three (3) demonstration projects to enhance reentry programs’ existing reentry services with comprehensive, gender-responsive, and trauma-informed approaches that support women’s effective transition from prison to the community. Please note that ongoing operations will not be funded through this RFP. Funding is specifically for enhanced activities rather than usual operations.

- **New on the MedlinePlus Child Mental Health page**: **Health Tip: When Your Child Is Stressed**
• **Disparities Report Highlights Health Care Challenges For Racial and Ethnic Minorities**: The latest National Healthcare Disparities Report released today by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) shows that access to health care was not improving for most racial and ethnic groups in the years 2002 through 2008 leading up to enactment of the Affordable Care Act. More

• There’s no better time than **National Minority Health Month** for a wake-up call about the potential dangers of what we call “The Big Four”: diabetes, obesity, hypertension and heart disease. They strike hard and often at racial and ethnic minority or multicultural populations.

• **Administration on Aging (AoA) promotes Older Americans Month (OAM) in May, “Never Too Old to Play”**. This year’s theme encourages older Americans to stay active and involved in their communities. Tweet and post to Facebook about Older Americans Month using hashtag #OAM2012. The AoA has also developed a website in honor of Older Americans Month at [www.OlderAmericansMonth.org](http://www.OlderAmericansMonth.org), which offers resources for celebrating Older Americans Month, including an activities toolkit, Day of Play promotion flyers and OAM posters.

• **National Library of Medicine Awards $67 Million for Informatics Research Training**: Donald A.B. Lindberg, MD, Director of the National Library of Medicine (NLM), a part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), today announced that the NLM is awarding 14 five-year grants, totaling more than $67 million, for research training in biomedical informatics, the discipline that seeks to apply computer and communications technology to improve health.

• **HHS Press Release: HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius Announces Delay of ICD-10 until October 1, 2014**. Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced a proposed rule that would delay the compliance date for ICD-10 from **October 1, 2013** to **October 1, 2014**. The ICD-10 compliance date change is part of a proposed rule that would adopt a standard for a unique health plan identifier (HPID), adopt a data element that would serve as an “other entity” identifier (OEID), and add a National Provider Identifier (NPI) requirement. The proposed rule was developed by the Office of E-Health Standards and Services (OESS) as part of its ongoing role, delegated by HHS, to establish standards for electronic health care transactions under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA). OESS is part of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). The [full release](http://www.cms.gov) can be found on the CMS Website, and more information about this proposed rule can be found on the [proposed rule ICD-10 fact sheet](http://www.cms.gov).