
Crain's Health Pulse
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Oxford leaves individual market in New York

Oxford Health Plans will pull out of New York's individual market in 2017, just a year after the UnitedHealthcare subsidiary launched the Oxford Metro Network to serve individual-plan members in New York, *Crain's* has learned. A United spokeswoman confirmed the news, saying it's part of the company's "on-going efforts to simplify our plan portfolio." She added, "We intend to offer individual plans under UnitedHealthcare both on and off the New York State of Health Marketplace and have filed our proposed 2017 rates with the state." In April, financial losses caused United to announce it would pull out of Obamacare exchanges in several other states. "This is a surprise because this is an off-exchange product, so it's a less risky platform," said Alex Miller, a partner at Millennium Medical Solutions, an employee-benefits consulting agency based in Westchester County. He added that while plans served by the Oxford Metro Network are expensive, he considers it the best-quality network for individuals and families in New York. "I thought this was priced right, so it wouldn't pull out," he said. In New York, the Oxford Metro Network serves all of New York City, in addition to nine other counties. Impacted members, who will have to enroll in new insurance plans in the fall, will soon receive notices from United, the spokeswoman said.

Health care innovators sweep '10 under 20' contest

A facial-recognition app for Alzheimer's patients and an automatic pill dispenser were among the winning inventions submitted by young New Yorkers to the "10 under 20: Young Innovators to Watch." Four out of the 10 projects involved health care projects. The contest, part of CE Week, the city's largest consumer electronics event honored the winners, all high-school and college students, at the Metropolitan Pavilion in Manhattan. Emma Yang, a student at the Brearley School on the Upper East Side, accepted an award for her iOS app, Timeless, which she invented to help Alzheimer's patients like her grandmother recognize their loved ones. Yang developed the app in collaboration with Miami-based human analytics startup Kairos. Another winner, Jason Huishen, 18, who graduated from Francis Lewis High School in Queens, was part of a team that invented an automatic pill dispenser that provides instructions and reminders through an accompanying mobile app. The developers came up with the idea for the project after seeing their grandparents struggle to keep track of their pills, said Huishen. Asurion and Lenovo, presented each of the winners with a \$1,000 scholarship.

Mount Sinai and Valley Health team up for cancer care in Jersey

Valley Health System and Mount Sinai Health System have joined forces to offer comprehensive cancer care in northern New Jersey, the two institutions announced today. The health systems will work together to improve patient care on two Valley campuses — Blumenthal Cancer Center in Paramus, and the main campus in Ridgewood. The partnership is intended to enhance Valley's existing programs through access to Mount Sinai cancer experts and clinical services. "The whole driver of this is our notion that cancer care should essentially be local care," Dr. Arthur Klein, president of Mount Sinai Health Network, told *Crain's*. Video conferences between oncologists and other health care professionals at the institutions will play a key role in facilitating the collaboration. Valley and Mount Sinai first announced their plans to work together on research and clinical programs in December 2015.

AT A GLANCE

WATER QUALITY: Thousands of children face an increased risk to lead exposure, due to a failure on the part of the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to adequately oversee water testing at the 2,300 day care centers under its purview, according to an [audit report](#) released last Friday by New York City Comptroller Scott Stringer.

MEDICAID EXPANSION: New York and other states that expanded their Medicaid programs through the ACA have lower rates of uninsured residents and greater access to care, according to a [research review](#) of 61 studies and reports the Kaiser Family Foundation published last week.

MACRA could put your Medicare payments at risk

Some doctors have avoided the drive toward value-based payments, but the federal government is hoping to get more clinicians to participate by putting their Medicare checks at risk if they don't meet certain quality metrics. The reform that will likely have the biggest impact on doctors in the coming years, according to several physician-group leaders in New York, is the federal Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act, or MACRA, passed in 2015.

"The payment model will be different, but the big lift for physicians will be proving they're improving the quality of care for patients," said Adam Stracher, director of the primary care division of the Weill Cornell Physician Organization, who will be speaking at Crain's "Disruption at the Doctor's Office" event today. "It's not something we've been good at reporting in the past."

MACRA's pay-for-performance model replaces the across-the-board updates to the physician fee schedule that came each year under the Sustainable Growth Rate system. Under that system, Congress typically approved "doc fixes" to avoid any planned cuts to clinicians' payments.