

Three Minute Read™

Insights from the Healing American Healthcare Coalition™

October 2022-1



From the Editor: As summer gives way to fall, TMR's first October issue starts with four article summaries of interest to seniors, followed by vaccine updates and news that TMR's home state is the 5th happiest in the US. To access each article, just click on the headline.



[Britain's Hard Lessons From Handing Elder Care Over to Private Equity](#), by Christine Spolar, Kaiser Health News, 9/27/22

TMR Topline – A decade ago, Four Seasons Health Care was among Britain's largest with 500 long-term care homes, 20,000 residents and 60 specialty centers. Now, the last 111 facilities are on the market after years of private equity (PE) investors rolling in one after another to buy its business, sell its real estate, and wresting multimillion-dollar profits through complex debt schemes. Separate from the National Health Service, Britain's care homes serve a mix of public- and private-pay residents relying on support from local authorities (i.e., counties). [A recent study](#) found big changes in the quality of care after PE investments. From 1980 to 2018, the number of residential care beds provided by local authorities fell 88% to 17,100; independent operators control 243,000 beds. PE firms now own three of the country's five biggest care home providers. British lawmakers tried and failed to increase financial reporting rules for care homes.



[HHS unveils nursing home ownership database](#), by Lauren Berryman, Modern Healthcare, 9/26/22

TMR Topline – HHS unveiled

a public database that contains information about who owns the 15,000 skilled nursing facilities that Medicare reimburses. It's part of a broader set of [nursing home policies](#) that include plans to address overcrowding, set staffing requirements and increase inspections. CMS data indicate that more than 157,000 nursing home residents and 2,600 workers have died from Covid-19.



[Medicare Part B premiums to decrease for the first time in over a decade](#), by Joseph Choi, The Hill, 9/7/22

TMR Topline – HHS announced that Part B premiums will decrease by \$5.20/month in 2023 from \$170.10 to \$164.90. CMS cited the "lower-than-projected spending on both Aduhelm and other Part B items" as reason for the "much larger reserves" in the Supplementary Medical Insurance (SMI) Trust Fund that allowed for the lowered premium.



[How a Japanese Drugmaker Got The Clean Win Over Alzheimer's](#), by Kanoko Matsuyama and Michelle Fay Cortez,

Bloomberg, 9/29/22

TMR Topline – Three decades after the presumed cause of Alzheimer's disease, amyloid plaque buildup, was identified, by a team of scientists led by renowned neurogenetist John Hardy at University College London and more than 100 years after the disease was discovered, Eisai Co., a Japanese company has become the first drugmaker to prove the debilitating condition can be slowed. Recently its Clarity-AD clinical trial has shown that lecanemab, the medicine it's developing with Biogen Inc., curbed this most common type of dementia. Through this important development that family run Eisai has been committed to for many years, the company has eclipsed all of the much larger industry leaders including Roche Holding AG and Eli Lilly & Co. Today more than 55 million

people are afflicted with Alzheimer's disease around the world.

For the many years that Eisai pursued the development of drugs to address the buildup of amyloid plaque, the company faced questions about and challenges to their hypothesis that treating the buildup of amyloid plaque in the brain of Alzheimer's patients could slow the disease. Chief Executive Haruo Naito was unequivocal in his comments: "After 30 years, lecanemab proved that the patient's condition can be improved by removing amyloid beta." The results "prove the amyloid hypothesis."

TMR's Take: It's good news, bad news for America's graying population: concern about private equity's increased involvement in eldercare offset somewhat by progress in fighting Alzheimer's disease. The decrease in Part B premiums will be accompanied by an [8.7% increase](#) in Social Security benefits.



[How long should I wait to get a bivalent booster if I recently had a shot or contracted Covid?](#), by

Dani Blum, New York Times, 9/20/22

TMR Topline – In August, the FDA authorized updated booster shots for people who are at least two months out from their last Covid shot. Some members of the CDC's advisory panel expressed concerns that many immunologists believe that people should wait 4-6 months after immunization to get a booster. So should those who were recently infected with the coronavirus because your body will probably not generate much of an immune response so soon after a previous encounter with the virus. It typically takes 1-2 weeks after receiving the booster for antibodies to kick in.

TMR's Take: - As evidence mounts that [Omicron descendants](#) will produce a winter surge, elderly and immunocompromised Americans are well-advised to consult their physician about getting the booster shot.



[Monkeypox vaccine 79% effective, according to Israeli preprint study](#),

CIDRAP News Scan, 9/26/22

TMR Topline – Yet to be peer-reviewed, an Israeli study shows the Jynneos vaccine is

79% effective against monkeypox infection. Of 1,970 subjects eligible for the study, 873 (44%) were vaccinated with Jynneos and completed at least 25 days of follow-up between 7/31 and 9/12/22. The CDC reports 24,876 cases in the US thus far with 3,233 cases treated with the antiviral Tpoxx, and 684,980 vaccine doses administered.

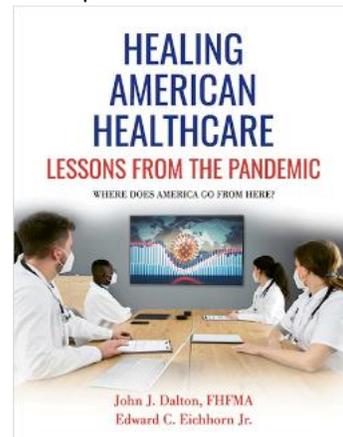
TMR's Take: After a slow start when monkeypox first appeared in May, recent [data](#) indicate that new cases have been declining after peaking in early August.



[10 happiest, unhappiest states in America](#), by Kelly Gooch, Becker's Hospital Review, 9/20/22

TMR Topline – Using [30 metrics](#) and comparing states across three dimensions - emotional and physical well-being; work environment; and community and environment – analysts determined that Hawaii is the US's happiest state and West Virginia the unhappiest. The other nine happiest states were Maryland, Minnesota, Utah, New Jersey, Idaho, California, Illinois, Nebraska, and Connecticut. The other nine unhappiest states were [Louisiana](#), [Arkansas](#), [Kentucky](#), [Alabama](#), [Mississippi](#), [Oklahoma](#), [Tennessee](#), [New Mexico](#) and Missouri.

TMR's Take: - TMR is pleased that its home state of New Jersey ranks #5. Hard-hit early in the pandemic, the Garden State had the highest per capita fatality rate in the US until Mississippi passed it a year ago, followed by West Virginia and the seven states highlighted in [yellow](#). Sadly, many of these states failed to apply the lessons learned from the states hit early that performed well once testing, treatments and vaccines were developed. Perhaps that's one factor accounting for their low ranking.



"Lessons from the Pandemic" the Healing American Healthcare Coalition's new book, highlights seven key lessons that the US needs to prioritize if future pandemics are to be prevented. It's available in both soft-cover and eBook versions. Click [here](#) to get it at the sale price with

coupon Printbook or ebook at checkout.