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MEMBER HOSPITALS

**Brookhaven Memorial
Hospital Medical Center**
East Patchogue

**Catholic Health Services
of Long Island**

- **Good Samaritan
Hospital Medical Center**
West Islip
- **St. Catherine of Siena
Medical Center**
Smithtown
- **St. Charles Hospital**
Port Jefferson
- **St. Francis Hospital**
Roslyn
- **St. Joseph Hospital**
Bethpage
- **Mercy Medical Center**
Rockville Centre

East End Health Alliance

- **Eastern Long Island
Hospital**
Greenport
- **Peconic Bay
Medical Center**
Riverhead
- **Southampton Hospital**
Southampton

Long Beach Medical Center
Long Beach

**John T. Mather
Memorial Hospital**
Port Jefferson

**Nassau University
Medical Center**
East Meadow

North Shore-Long Island

- Jewish Health System**
- **Glen Cove Hospital**
- **North Shore
University Hospital**
- **Plainview Hospital**
- **Syosset Hospital**
- **Franklin Hospital**
- **Huntington Hospital**
- **Southside Hospital**

**Stony Brook
University Hospital**
Stony Brook

**Veterans Affairs
Medical Center**
Northport

**Winthrop South Nassau
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- **South Nassau
Communities Hospital**
Oceanside
- **Winthrop-University
Hospital**
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**Nassau-Suffolk
Hospital Council, Inc.**

**A PUBLICATION ADDRESSING HEALTH
ISSUES FACING LONG ISLANDERS**

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Federal News

Doc Pay Cut Postponed

The 23 percent Medicare pay cut physicians were bracing for on December 1 was averted and, at least for the remainder of this year, physicians and the seniors they treat can enjoy a temporary reprieve. On January 1, 2011, the pay cut grows to 25 percent, unless Congress acts to once again postpone the cut or works to craft a sustainable, long-term solution to the problem.

This latest congressional action represents the fifth time in 12 months a short-term patch to the payment problem was needed. The newest fix is being paid for by a reduction in anticipated

overpayments of subsidies for low and moderate income individuals purchasing health insurance in the state health insurance exchanges that will be established in 2014. The previous fix was paid for by Medicare cuts to hospital providers.

It has been difficult for lawmakers to find a solution to the flawed sustainable growth rate (SGR) formula that aligns Medicare physician pay with the economy's performance. If yearly spending totals exceed certain limits, then physician pay is cut.

State News

Medicaid Redesign Tops New Governor's Agenda

*Hospital industry agrees Medicaid program needs
massive overhaul and offers viable solutions*

Governor-elect Andrew Cuomo has identified three issue areas requiring immediate attention when he takes office in January. These are Medicaid, school aid, and funding of the state employees' pension system. The new administration is looking for dynamic change in all these areas with the hope such change will save the state money and improve efficiencies. The state faces a \$9 billion deficit next year.

The hospital industry has indicated its willingness to work with the new administration to find reasonable and sustainable modifications to the Medicaid program that will not sacrifice quality or reduce access to care. Some of these recommendations include expanding Medicaid managed care to all patient populations and improving coordination of care for the 20 percent

of the population that accounts for 80 percent of all Medicaid spending, including those who require behavioral health and long-term care services.

Repeated reimbursement cuts to providers have not solved the state's budget crises or achieved any meaningful reform of the Medicaid program. True reform must occur outside of the budget process, say hospital leaders, if we are to make any progress in enhancing efficiencies. The poor, disabled, and frail elderly are served by the Medicaid program. Due to the weakened economy and job/benefit loss, thousands more on Long Island have entered the rolls and pressure on the program is expected to mount, when insurance expansion fully takes hold in 2014.