

June 19, 2012

## PREPARING FOR THE SUPREME COURT DECISION ON THE PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

### AT A GLANCE

#### **As We Prepare:**

As we all prepare for the U.S. Supreme Court to issue its decision on the *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act* in the coming weeks, the AHA is working to ensure that we provide the hospital field with relevant and timely information. If the law is not upheld in its entirety, the Supreme Court's decision is likely to be complex and will warrant significant review and analysis before the many legal, political and practical implications will all be clear. While AHA staff is analyzing the decision, we will begin communicating with members immediately.

#### **Communication Plan:**

Regardless of the Court's decision, the AHA will work to inform the field what the ruling means for hospitals as quickly as possible. As soon as a decision is issued please expect the following from AHA:

- *AHA Newsflash* – An e-mail will be sent to members immediately after the decision is made public.
- Blog – The AHA's legal team will begin reviewing the decision and will provide blog posts on each segment on the decision at <http://ahahealthreformlaw.wordpress.com/> as they go.
- *Special Bulletin* – An e-mail will be sent to members on the day of the decision that includes AHA's statement.
- *Member Advisory* – In the days following the decision, AHA will provide member with a more in-depth analysis and commentary, as well as address common themes and incoming questions.
- Member Conference Calls – Calls will be scheduled to provide members with information on the decision and to receive member feedback as we move forward.
- Media Response – AHA will hold a conference call for reporters to address media inquiries.
- AHA TownHall Interactive Webcast – A webcast will be held on July 2 where viewers will hear from AHA leaders, as well as AHA's legal counsel.
- Social Media Updates – AHA will utilize Facebook and Twitter to comment on the decision.

#### **Resources:**

For additional resources on the issues in questions, the decision and implications of the decision please visit [www.aha.org](http://www.aha.org) to access:

- A summary of the law and related resources (<http://www.aha.org/advocacy-issues/reform/index.shtml>)
- Legal Resources – AHA's Amicus Briefs (<http://www.aha.org/advocacy-issues/legal/legal-amicus-briefs.shtml>)
- Our legal blog (<http://ahahealthreformlaw.wordpress.com/>)

#### **Further Questions:**

Contact AHA at (800) 424-4301 or [express@aha.org](mailto:express@aha.org).

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### SAMPLE PRE-DECISION TALKING POINTS

- While those in Washington will continue to debate and work to shape what direction health care reform will take, America's hospitals are dedicated to ensuring patients and communities have access to high-quality health care – and are demonstrating that through a strong and continued commitment to improving care and reducing costs.
- Regardless of the Supreme Court's decision, \_\_\_\_\_ Hospital will continue to move forward making health care more accessible and affordable for the patients we serve.
- Reshaping our current system and how care is delivered will remain critical to the future of health care in every community – and \_\_\_\_\_ Hospital is working towards that end in the following ways.... (better coordinated care, focus on prevention and wellness, etc.).
- As the AHA argued to the Court in an amicus brief (<http://www.aha.org/content/12/120105-aha-amici-brief.pdf>), if the coverage expansions are struck down, the cuts also should be eliminated.