



# MBMS

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## Radiology Trends

### *Did You Know?*

Researchers at Indiana University's Riley Hospital for Children found that the comfort pads used in neonatal ICU can attenuate the radiation beam from portable x-ray by up to 72.1% depending on the thickness. This prompted a policy change to remove the comfort pads for all but the sickest infants.

The Food and Drug Administration reaffirmed the safety and effectiveness of CT colonography as a screening tool for colon cancer.

### Affordable Care Act & Health Insurance Exchanges

State-run health insurance exchanges are finding difficulty keeping at least one major insurance carrier interested. As the insurance exchange marketplace opens under the Affordable Care Act, insurance companies are fleeing some state's individual marketplaces. Aetna has announced it has opted out of New Jersey's state exchange on September 10, after pulling out of exchanges in other states, including California and New York.

This trend began in May, when Aetna, Cigna and United Healthcare announced they would not be participating in California's exchange. In July, Aetna sent out a letter

to its policyholders informing them that the new law had revamped the health-care system "as we know it" and that policyholders should brace for higher prices.

Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield opted out of Iowa's exchange, and other carriers followed suit across the 16 states and District of Columbia that had decided to launch their own state-run marketplaces.

There are a lot of regulations in the law that make health insurance costly for companies. The latest wave of insurers exiting the individual market is likely just the beginning. The number of companies backing out of the state-

operated insurance exchanges has raised questions about their viability. However, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has been steadfast in saying the exchanges will go live as scheduled on October 1st.

The exchanges are on-line marketplaces where small businesses and individuals can shop for health insurance coverage. They're a feature of federal health care reform scheduled to go live this fall.

Consumers can start making choices on their exchanges October 1, 2013 but they won't take effect until January 1, 2014. So far, there are 19 State-based Exchanges, (continued on page 2)

### fMRI Records Post-Concussion Brain Activity

For the first time researchers have documented different brain activity in the brains of post-concussion subjects. Thomas Hammeke, PhD published his findings in the September issue of the *Journal of the International Neuropsychological Society*. He evaluated 24 high school athletes, 12 with

concussions and 12 uninjured at 13 hours following the injury and again at 7 weeks. Functional MRI showed diminished activity in the right hemisphere of the brain, in addition to decreased reaction time and diminished cognitive abilities in those with concussions. While the reaction time and cognitive

abilities improved at the 7 week assessment, their brains showed increased activity in the brain's attentional circuits, suggesting a compensatory response by the brain.

It is estimated that 3.8 million people suffer traumatic brain injuries annually.

