

**From:** Office of Communications <communications@scdhhs.gov>  
**To:**  
**Date:** 12/20/2013 12:13:57 PM  
**Subject:** Today's Stories - Friday, December 20, 2013

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**1) "With only days before the Monday deadline to sign up for coverage that starts Jan. 1, insurers are facing a much smaller, and sicker, pool of customers than hoped for."**

<http://m.us.wsj.com/articles/SB10001424052702304773104579268593084655618?ref=/home-page>

**2) Opinion: Story of the Year**

[http://m.washingtonpost.com/opinions/charles-krauthammer-story-of-the-year/2013/12/19/1d862c98-68f9-11e3-ae56-22de072140a2\\_story.html?tid=HP\\_opinion](http://m.washingtonpost.com/opinions/charles-krauthammer-story-of-the-year/2013/12/19/1d862c98-68f9-11e3-ae56-22de072140a2_story.html?tid=HP_opinion)

**3) Another Rule in Health Law is Scaled Back**

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/12/20/us/politics/white-house-exempts-some-from-health-law-penalties.html?hp&gwh=59A85B78DCCDB1BD979FDC5F341722B8&gwt=pay>

**4) Tackling a Racial Gap in Breast Cancer Survival**

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/12/20/health/tackling-a-racial-gap-in-breast-cancer-survival.html?hp&gwh=D7110297C5A9534645583AC57E89C5C8&gwt=pay>

**5) White House Will Allow Some To Buy Catastrophic Health Plans**

<http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702303773704579268921897477550>

**6) The individual mandate no longer applies to people whose plans were canceled**

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/wonkblog/wp/2013/12/19/the-obama-administration-just-delayed-the-individual-mandate-for-people-whose-plans-have-been-canceled/>

**7) Study: Routine costs, not law, lead to most new increases**

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2013/12/19/small-number-of-insurance-rate-increases-due-to-aca/4109687/>

**8) Medicare Auditors Urged to Check Doctors' Total Billing to Prevent Fraud**

<http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304773104579268660513104636?KEYWORDS=medicare>

**9) Opinion: Note to the White House: Obamacare's benefits aren't free**

<http://www.latimes.com/opinion/opinion-la/la-ol-obamacare-benefits-arent-free-20131219,0,5956812.story#axzz2o0sECWdO>

**10) SC jobless rate dropping rapidly**

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/12/20/3169047/sc-jobless-rate-dropping-rapidly.html>

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### **CALL CENTER HOURS**

South Carolina Healthy Connections has expanded the members services call center hours to provide additional customer support. Call center staff are now available at 1 (888) 549-0820 from 8 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Friday and 8 a.m.-1 p.m. on Saturdays.

### **NEW DATA TOOL!**

A new website can help you identify Medicaid health service trends for your community and access maps and reports on Medicaid in South Carolina. Check out SC HealthViz at [www.schealthviz.sc.edu](http://www.schealthviz.sc.edu) to learn more about health in your community.

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