



### Top Headlines

- [States Take Administrative Actions to Curb Medicaid Drug Costs](#)
- [Key Health Policy Issues at Play in 2018 Governors' Races](#)
- [States Share their PrEP Prevention Initiatives to Reduce New HIV Infections](#)

### Featured Stories



#### States Take Administrative Actions to Curb Medicaid Drug Costs

In addition to passing dozens of laws this year to tackle rising prescription drug costs, states are taking innovative administrative actions to curb spending on Medicaid and public employee pharmacy benefits. Ohio, West Virginia, and Vermont offer examples of how states are taking innovative administrative approaches to rein in drug costs.

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#### Key Health Policy Issues at Play in 2018 Governors' Races

With elections just three weeks away, governors' races in 36 states are down to the wire and health policy issues, including Medicaid expansion, stabilizing insurance markets, public options, and prescription drug price controls, are at play in most of them. NASHP provides a snapshot of key health care election issues, which could take center stage in state legislatures in 2019.

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#### States Share their PrEP Prevention Initiatives to Reduce New HIV Infections

Pre-exposure prophylaxis, known as PrEP, is a comprehensive HIV intervention that combines an antiretroviral drug, testing, and counseling to reduce new HIV infections. NASHP brought together officials from Maryland, Michigan, and Connecticut in a PrEP Policy Learning Series to learn and report on how states are effectively deploying and improving their PrEP initiatives to save lives and reduce health care costs.



#### Federal Government Follows States' Lead and Bans Pharmacy Gag Clauses

Following the lead of 28 states, last week President Trump signed two bills designed to increase prescription drug price transparency by prohibiting pharmacy benefit managers' gag clauses, which prevent pharmacists from disclosing lower-cost drug options to consumers. [One bill](#) affects private insurance markets starting immediately, and the other affects Medicare Part D plans starting in 2020. This federal action comes after many states have already passed laws to limit gag clauses and better regulate pharmacy benefit managers. The recent federal action demonstrates that when states lead in creating important policies, Congress often follows. [Learn more about state action to curb drug costs at NASHP's Center for State Rx Drug Pricing](#), which features model legislation, new state laws, and legal and policy analysis.



#### Listen to NASHP's Webinar on Strategies to Help Families Affected by Opioids

In partnership with the Alliance for Early Success, NASHP recently hosted a webinar featuring two New Hampshire officials who detailed their state's coordinated approach to meet the needs of young children affected by opioid use disorder.



### Webinars

Hosted by NASHP

- [Webinar: State Options to Promote Recovery in Pregnant/Parenting Women with Substance Use Disorder](#)  
1-2:15 p.m. (EST)  
Wednesday, Oct. 24, 2018

- [Webinar: State Strategies for Shared Plans of Care to Improve Care Coordination for CYSHCN](#)  
3-4 p.m. (EST)  
Wednesday, Oct. 31, 2018

#### Other Webinars

- [Webinar: HRSA Hosts Virtual Job Fair for Behavioral Health Professionals](#)  
6:45-10:15 p.m. (EST)  
Wednesday, Oct. 17, 2018

- [Webinar: State Medicaid-Housing Agency Partnerships New Technical Support Opportunity for States Information Session](#)  
3-4 p.m. (EST)  
Thursday, Oct. 18, 2018

- [Webinar: Solving Medicaid Missing Data Problems](#)  
3-4 p.m. (EST)  
Tuesday, Oct. 23, 2018

- [Webinar: Using Data to Identify Housing Needs and Target Resources, Medicaid Innovation Accelerator Program](#)  
2-3:30 p.m. (EST)  
Wednesday, Nov. 7, 2018

### Resource of the Month



#### Medicaid Maternal Depression Screening Maps and 50-State Chart

This month, NASHP features its updated [Medicaid Maternal Depression Screening maps and 50-State Chart](#). One map indicates which states Medicaid programs cover maternal depression screening as part of well-child visits. A second map details maternal depression screening tool recommendations and requirements in states. Check out other new resources at NASHP's [Healthy Child Development State Resource Center](#), supported by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. If you have a resource to request be featured, please email [ehiggins@nashp.org](mailto:ehiggins@nashp.org).

### National Academy for State Health Policy

The National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP) is an independent academy of state health policymakers who are dedicated to helping states achieve excellence in health policy and practice. A non-profit and non-partisan organization, NASHP provides a forum for constructive work across branches and agencies of state government on critical health policy issues.

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