May - June, 2011 Issue 6



CaringMonthTM by HelpingYouCareTM

Helping You Care for Aging Parents & Elderly Loved Ones

www.HelpingYouCare.com and www.HelpingYouCare.org

A Comprehensive Family Caregiver's Resource, Support Community & Your Voice for Health-Care Reform

CaringMonth[™] is a Free e-mail Newsletter, providing updates on the latest news & helpful information for family caregivers from HelpingYouCare.com[™].

Please forward this Newsletter on to your friends and any family caregivers you know, and invite them to:

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Caregiving News & Events:

High-Tech Increasingly Used to Allow Seniors to Age in Place

Several pilot programs are being conducted by the Oregon Center for Aging & Technology to test motion sensors, skype-like video monitors, robots and other high-tech equipment, as a means of constantly monitoring the well-being of seniors in their own . . . \rightarrow Read More: <u>High-Tech Increasingly Used to Allow Seniors to Age in Place</u>

TV Viewing Linked to Higher Risk of Type 2 Diabetes, Cardiovascular Disease & Death

A new study has found a correlation between every two additional hours of television viewing per day and an increase in risk of type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and death. The study, by researchers from Harvard School of Public . . . \rightarrow Read More: TV Viewing Linked to Higher Risk of Type 2 Diabetes, Cardiovascular Disease & Death

National Prevention Strategy Released June 16 Under Affordable Care Act

Memorial Day Health Message for Caregivers: Wellness Tips from the CDC

This Memorial Day, as we remember our loved ones who have gone on, including those who gave their lives in service of our country, let us resolve to honor their lives and the lives of those loved ones we . . . → Read More: Memorial Day Health Message for Caregivers: Wellness Tips from the CDC

Vote by May 27 to Select Winner of Video Contest for Older Americans Month - & See Winners

More: Vote by May 27 to Select Winner of Video Contest for Older Americans Month

City Emergency Rooms Closing – Linked to Profit Motive – While ER Use Increases

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Govt Finds Dangerous Antipsychotic Drugs Given 95% "Off Label" in Nursing Homes

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services released an investigation report on May 4, 2011, finding that among elderly Medicare patients in nursing homes, dangerous antipsychotic drugs are being given predominantly . . . → Read More: Govt Finds Dangerous Antipsychotic Drugs Given 95% "Off Label" in Nursing Homes



AnswersForCareTM – Practical Caregiver Tips & Skills:

Under Affordable Care Act, Preventive Services Now Free to Medicare Beneficiaries

Under the Affordable Care Act, since January 1, 2011, beneficiaries of Original Medicare no longer have to pay out-of-pocket costs for a "Welcome to Medicare" physical exam, and an annual preventive/ wellness visit with a participating physician is also . . . → Read More: Under Affordable Care Act, Preventive Services Now Free to Medicare Beneficiaries

New Tool Issued by HHS to Help Reduce Medication Errors

The U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS), Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), has released a new tool to help consumers reduce medication errors — a revised booklet, with detachable wallet-sized card, entitled: "Your Medicines: Be . . . → Read More: New Tool Issued by HHS to Help Reduce Medication Errors

More Emergency Rooms Adopt Online Reservations Systems: You Can Book An Appointment & Wait at Home

Ten hospitals in South Florida have recently joined a growing national trend by adopting online reservations systems for their Emergency Rooms. These systems allow patients with non-life-threatening conditions to go online, enter their symptoms, and, for a fee, book . . . → Read More: More Emergency Rooms Adopt Online Reservations Systems: You Can Book An Appointment & Wait at Home

Medicare Launches New Website for Caregivers

The U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has launched a new section of the Medicare.gov website focused on helping caregivers. The new site, called Medicare Basics — Eligibility and enrollment; definitions for . . . → Read More: Medicare Launches New Website for Caregivers



AnswersForCareTM – Wellness for Seniors & Caregivers:

Diet, Exercise, Sleep & Physical Wellness

Memorial Day Health Message for Caregivers: Wellness Tips from the CDC

This Memorial Day, as we remember our loved ones who have gone on, including those who gave their lives in service of our country, let us resolve to honor their lives and the lives of those loved ones we . . . → Read More: Memorial Day Health Message for Caregivers: Wellness Tips from the CDC

FDA Tips For Cleaning Fruits and Vegetables

It's estimated by Federal health officials that nearly 48 million people are sickened by contaminated food each year. Here are seven Food and Drug Administration recommendations for avoiding food contamination: "Wash your hands for 20 seconds with warm water . . . \rightarrow Read More: FDA Tips For Cleaning Fruits and Vegetables

Intellectual Wellness (Mental Acuity)

Social Wellness (A Sense of Connection with Others) & Emotional, Ethical/Spiritual & Vocational Wellness

Examples of Healthy Aging – Stories of Inspiring Seniors

Active At 103-Years-Old

A daily bike ride with Octavio Orduno at 103. Watch»

The Oldest Man In America

112-Year-old Walter Breuning is currently the oldest man in America. He lives in an assisted living center, but needs little assistance. He is not on any medicine and attributes his good health to watching what he eats and maintaining . . . → Read More: The Oldest Man In America

World's Oldest Woman

YONE MINAGAWA, born in 1893 and now 114 years old, lives in Japan. She attributes her long life to a healthy diet rich in fish and rice. . . . → Read More: World's Oldest Woman

Secrets From A 101-Year-Old Life Of The Party

Having a passion and not letting things bother you is a great start according to medical research! Gertrude Matthews plays the piano at a Palm Beach restaurant for two hours a night, twice a week. Watch her on 'World . . . → Read More: Secrets From A 101-Year-Old Life Of The Party

Dance Performance At 101-Years-Old

The last remaining Ziegfeld Girl passed away at age 106 in 2010. Watch Doris Eaton Travis dancing at 101-years-old»

A Healthy Body and Mind at 98-Years Old

A 98-year-old Japanese man's story of how he keeps physically and mentally fit. Watch an excerpt from the PBS documentary "The Art of . . . \rightarrow Read More: A Healthy Body and Mind at 98-Years Old

94-Year-Old Track Star

Watch a 94-year-old champ run the 100 yard dash»

Vote by May 27 to Select Winner of Video Contest for Older Americans Month

10 Finalists have been announced in the Connecting Generations Video Challenge being sponsored by the U.S. Administration on

Aging (AoA) in honor of Older Americans Month, May, 2011. Public voting is open and ends May 27, to select the . . . → Read More: Vote by May 27 to Select Winner of Video Contest for Older Americans Month

A 99-Year-Old Inspiration

Veatrice Henson, a 99-year-old Missouri woman proves you are never too old to help those in need. See Marissa Cleaver's NBCActionNews report»

A Centenarian Competitive Snow Skier

Watch CBS Sunday Morning introduce us to Lou Batori»



AnswersForCareTM – **Medical Conditions Commonly Faced by Seniors:**

Alzheimer's Disease/ Dementia

See our extensive resources on Alzheimer's Disease/ Dementia, and caregiving for senior loved ones with Alzheimer's/ Dementia Read More: Alzheimer's Disease/ Dementia: What is it – Causes; Symptoms & Diagnosis; Prevention; Treatment; & Caregiving

Govt Finds Dangerous Antipsychotic Drugs Given 95% "Off Label" in Nursing Homes

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services released an investigation report on May 4, 2011, finding that among elderly Medicare patients in nursing homes, dangerous antipsychotic drugs are being given predominantly . . . → Read More: Govt Finds Dangerous Antipsychotic Drugs Given 95% "Off Label" in Nursing Homes

Diabetes

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Tips for Traveling With Diabetes Issued by NIH and CDC

The National Diabetes Education Program, jointly sponsored by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention(CDC), has issued a checklist of tips to help you travel with diabetes. These may be helpful to . . . \rightarrow Read More: Tips for Traveling With Diabetes Issued by NIH and CDC

Eyesight Problems

May is Healthy Vision Month

The National Eye Institute, part of the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH), has declared May as "Healthy Vision Month." The purpose of Healthy Vision Month is to "encourage people and organizations around the world to recognize the value . . . → Read More: May is Healthy Vision Month

Falls/ Fractures/ Mobility Loss

Prevent Falls by Older Adults

The HHS Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality reports that fall-related injuries are responsible for about two million visits to hospital emergency departments per year, according to a May 12, 2011 HealthBeat report issued by the U.S. Department of . . . → Read More: Prevent Falls by Older Adults

Incontinence

Helpful Resources on Incontinence and Bladder & Bowel Problems – NAFC

Visit <u>www.NAFC.org</u>, the website of the National Association For Continence (NAFC), for helpful information and resources on all aspects of understanding and dealing with Incontinence, Nocturia, Enlarged Prostate, and Prolapse. The site includes comprehensive medical information on bladder & bowel health . . . → Read More: <u>Helpful Resources on Incontinence and Bladder & Bowel Problems – NAFC</u>

Parkinson's Disease

Midwest Parkinson Disease Conference, June 17, 2011

The National Parkinson's Foundation is holding the annual Midwest Parkinson Disease Conference in Des Moines, Iowa, on Friday, June 17, 2011. Registrants can participate in person or by Free live webcast. HelpingYouCare™ has received the following announcement, inviting you . . . → Read More: Midwest Parkinson Disease Conference, June 17, 2011

Skin Cancers

Screening for Melanoma Found Most Effective in Patients 50 Years or Older

June issue of the Archives of Dermatology, a Journal of the American Medical Association, concluded: "Screening and surveillance efforts should focus on patients 50 years or older and those with a personal history of skin cancer or a family . . . → Read More: Screening for Melanoma Found Most Effective in Patients 50 Years or Older

Other Medical Conditions Common in Seniors:

See our extensive links to information on other common senior health conditions, including:

Arthritis, Osteoporosis & Rheumatic Conditions

C-Dif

Depression

Hearing Loss

Heart Disease & Stroke

High Blood Pressure

Urinary Tract Infection (UTI)

More Medical News via HelpingYouCareTM

General Health Information:

Cleveland Clinic – A-Z Guide to Consumer Health Information

Cleveland Clinic's website features an A to Z guide to consumer health information. This is a very good place to start to obtain basic information about any of a great number of diseases or conditions that may affect your . . . → Read More: Cleveland Clinic – A-Z Guide to Consumer Health Information

Diseases and Conditions – MayoClinic.com

Link to Mayo Clinic's Information on Medical Conditions and Diseases - A to Z. This is a good place to start in your research of the various medical conditions with which your senior loved one may be challenged. Get . . . → Read More: Diseases and Conditions — MayoClinic.com

THE MERCK MANUAL MEDICAL LIBRARY: The Merck Manual of Medical Information—Home Edition

The Merck Manual of Online Health Information is a recognized comprehensive resource of health and medical information for consumers. The Editorial Board of the Online Version consists of 15 Medical Doctors (MD's), and each of the Editor-In-Chief, Senior Assistant . . . → Read More: THE MERCK MANUAL MEDICAL LIBRARY: The Merck Manual of Medical Information—Home Edition

NOAH – New York Online Access to Health

This website of NOAH provides excellent links to a wealth of good online information on health, categorized under the general headings: * Health Topics (a topic listing of NOAH content by body area or disease category) * Index A . . . → Read More: NOAH — New York Online Access to Health

CAPHIS | Top 100 Health Websites You Can Trust

FamilyDoctor.org - American Academy of Family Physicians

Good source of "Health information for the whole family" provided by the American Academy of Family Physicians. Includes health information on conditions – A to Z – plus links to Health Tools, inlcuding, * Dictionary * Calculator * Trackers . . . → Read More: FamilyDoctor.org – American Academy of Family Physicians



AnswersForCareTM – **Other Information & Resources for Caregivers:**

About Home Health Care

High-Tech Increasingly Used to Allow Seniors to Age in Place

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About Senior Housing & Care Facilities

Legal & Financial Issues

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Featured Columns & Articles

Other Resources for Caregivers



OurTimeForCareTM – Caregiver Self-Care:

Caregiver Self-Care, Stress Management & Survival Tips

Inspiration & Humor for Caregivers



CaregiversCollege[™] – Classes, Webinars & Our CaringTube[™] Videos:

Classes, Courses & Webinars for Caregivers

<u>CaringTube[™] – Online Videos for Caregivers</u>



BooksForCaregiversTM – Bookstore & Book Reviews:

Reviews of Editors' Selections of the Month

To Love What Is: A Marriage Transformed

To Love What Is: A Marriage Transformed, by Alix Kates Shulman, is a beautiful, poignant love story spanning several decades. This memoir will touch your heart, and will touch home for you if you are or have been . . . → Read More: <u>To Love What Is: A Marriage Transformed</u>

Your Picks of the Month

Editors Seek Caregivers' Stories for New Chicken Soup for Caregivers Book

The publisher of the Chicken Soup for the Soul series of books announced that its Editors are seeking submissions of original family caregiver stories for possible inclusion in a new book to be produced, under the title: Chicken Soup . . . → Read More: Editors Seek Caregivers' Stories for New Chicken Soup for Caregivers Book

Visit Our Bookstore for Caregivers



CareHelpFinderTM – Locator Tools to Find the Resources You Need:

Find Home Health Care

Find Nursing Homes, Assisted Living, Independent Living, Respite Care & Other Care Facilities

Find Care Managers & Other Professional Advisors

Find Other Care Resources



ThingsForElderNeedsTM – Technology, Equipment, Supplies & Clothing:

Helpful Technology, Products & Supplies

Helpful Medical Equipment

Comfortable & Adaptive Senior Clothing



VoicesForCareTM – News, Info & Editorials on Health-Care Reform:

News on Health Care Reform

National Prevention Strategy Released June 16 Under Affordable Care Act

On June 16, 2011, the Surgeon General of the U.S. along with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and members of the National Prevention Council, announced the release of the National Prevention and Health Promotion Strategy, . . . → Read More: National Prevention Strategy Released June 16 Under Affordable Care Act

Government Imposes Review on All Premium Rate Hikes of 10% or More by Health Insurers

"Over the last 10 years, the cost of family health insurance has jumped an amazing 131 percent and today coverage is out of reach for millions of people and business owners," the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services . . . → Read More: Government Imposes Review on All Premium Rate Hikes of 10% or More by Health Insurers

Health Insurers Report Record Profits, Yet Raise Premiums, While People Postpone Care

Kaiser Health News, which provides a summary of health policy coverage from more than 300 news organizations, is reporting from several sources that health insurance companies have realized record profits for the third year in a row, enhanced even . . . → Read More: Health Insurers Report Record Profits, Yet Raise Premiums, While People Postpone Care

Affordable Care Act Will Save \$120 Billion for Medicare over 5 Years

CMS.gov. It outlines savings resulting from improvements to the Medicare program, including implementation of several provisions in the Affordable Care Act, cracking down on fraud, waste, and abuse in the Medicare system; reforming payment systems to reward high quality . . . \rightarrow Read More: Affordable Care Act Will Save \$120 Billion for Medicare over 5 Years

2011 Medicare Trustees Report Shows Affordable Care Act Added 8 Years of Solvency to Medicare Part A Hospital Insurance Trust Fund

The Medicare Trustees issued their Annual Report for 2011 today. It shows that the Medicare (Part A) Hospital Insurance Trust Fund is now projected to remain solvent until 2024, eight years longer than would have been the case without . . . → Read More: 2011 Medicare Trustees Report Shows Affordable Care Act Added 8 Years of Solvency to Medicare Part A Hospital Insurance Trust Fund

Lawsuits Challenging Health Care Law to Be Argued on Appeal May 10

Conservative blogs have pointed out that the Solicitor General usually argues cases only before the U.S. Supreme Court. E. Duncan Getchell Jr., Virginia's solicitor general, will argue before the Fourth Circuit for the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the Dean . . . → Read More: Lawsuits Challenging Health Care Law to Be Argued on Appeal May 10

Editorials & Advocacy for Health Care Reform

Top 5 Recommendations for Improving Primary Care Issued Today by National Physicians Alliance

The National Physicians Alliance (NPA), an organization of 22,000 physicians in the U.S., has developed and issued today, three lists of "Top 5" recommended changes in common clinical practices in primary medicine. They say, based on scientific literature and → Read More: Top 5 Recommendations for Improving Primary Care Issued Today by National Physicians Alliance

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Legislation

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International Health Care Compare



CaregiversLikeUsTM – **Online Support Groups & Forums:**

Visit our Online Support Groups & Participate in the Discussion in our Forums – at CaregiversLikeUs™

New Virtual Caregiver Support Group by Telephone – 4 PM to 5:30 PM June 26

The following Press Release was received from the Empowered Caregiver Network: "Houston, TX (PRWEB) June 09, 2011 The Empowered Caregiver Network, a new organization to support family caregivers worldwide, will begin conducting monthly "virtual support groups" on June 26. . . . → Read More: New Virtual Caregiver Support Group by Telephone – 4 PM to 5:30 PM June 26

Caregiver Stories - Listen or Read & Contribute Your Story

Editors Seek Caregivers' Stories for New Chicken Soup for Caregivers Book

The publisher of the Chicken Soup for the Soul series of books announced that its Editors are seeking submissions of original family caregiver stories for possible inclusion in a new book to be produced, under the title: Chicken Soup . . . → Read More: Editors Seek Caregivers' Stories for New Chicken Soup for Caregivers Book

CareWiki™ - Help Other Caregivers by Adding Your Tips

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