

**NOTE TO READERS:**

All underlined text in the LTC E-Newsletter is a hyperlink to a website or email address related to the item you are reading.

To access these links, put your mouse cursor over the underlined text and click on it with your left mouse button. If that does not work, you can click on it with your right mouse button and choose "Open Hyperlink" in the menu that will open on your screen.

Long Term Care  
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We're on the Web:

[www.ltccc.org](http://www.ltccc.org)

Our main website, with access to all of our issues, policy briefs and research.

[www.assisted-living411.org](http://www.assisted-living411.org)

For information on assisted living, including consumer issues and policies.

[www.nursinghome411.org](http://www.nursinghome411.org)

For information on developments in nursing home care, regulation and policy issues.

**LTC NEWS FLASH**

**Half of Doctors Routinely Prescribe Placebos**

A national study of 679 randomly chosen doctors found that half regularly prescribe placebos to their patients. Only five percent inform the patient that they are receiving a placebo. The study, of American doctors, was published in *BMJ*, formerly *The British Medical Journal*. Its results match those of surveys conducted of doctors in Israel, Britain, Denmark, Sweden and New Zealand.

A number of experts expressed concern about the study's findings. *The New York Times* reported that Dr. Franklin G. Miller, one of the authors of the study and director of the research ethics program in the department of bioethics at the National Institutes of Health, state "This is the doctor-patient relationship, and our expectations about being truthful about what's going on and about getting informed consent should give us pause about deception."  
[<http://www.bmj.com/>]

**Applications for Medicaid Benefits Soaring**

Politics on the Hudson, a news blog from The Journal News/LoHud.com, reports that according to the NY Department of Health, applications for Medicaid are up 30% from the same time last year. Medicaid, which provides care for lower income people, has been facing significant challenges on both the state and federal level even before the current fiscal crisis.  
[<http://polhudson.lohudblogs.com/2008/10/20/applicants-for-medicaid-soar/>]

**Florida Sued for Forcing People Into Nursing Homes**

The National Ombudsman Resource Center reports that 8,500 Florida Medicaid recipients have filed a class action lawsuit against the state alleging that they are being forced to obtain care in nursing homes rather than in the community. According to the Miami Herald article cited by the Ombudsman Center, Medicaid beneficiaries who are sick or disabled have little trouble getting into nursing homes but find that getting care at home is "substantially harder and often involves a long waiting list," even though care at home may cost the government less. [<http://www.ltcombudsman.org/uploads/File/OCT-Gazette.pdf>]

**FYI: FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

**Website of Interest: Real Clear Politics Healthcare Index** The website Real Clear Politics provides a wide range of news items and opinion pieces from different publications. Its

*LTCCC is a coalition of over two dozen organizations that works to protect the rights and welfare of long term care consumers in all settings, including nursing homes, assisted living facilities and managed long term care, by strengthening regulation, surveillance and enforcement.*

## LTCCC Links

[View the latest enforcement actions against nursing homes in New York State](#)

[Read the latest edition of LTCCC's Newsletter](#)

*If the above links do not work (or if you are reading a print out of this newsletter) you can find these documents on our homepage, [www.ltccc.org](http://www.ltccc.org).*

*LTCCC members receive hard copies of all our written materials and provide vital support for our work – **PLEASE JOIN NOW!***

election coverage includes reports from diverse sources like the Wall Street Journal, the Denver Post, Miami Herald and much more. For those interested in developments in healthcare, the Real Clear Politics Healthcare Index has a listing of stories and news items (with links to read the full text). It is a good resource to find news on healthcare issues, what people are thinking and talking about in terms of these issues and other relevant healthcare developments. Recent postings have included "[Health Care Plans: Obama vs. McCain](#) - USA Today," "[How To Cut Health Care Costs](#) - Forbes" and "[What Really Ails Medicare](#) - Jonathan Cohn, The American Prospect." [<http://www.realclearpolitics.com>]

## **PLEASE HELP LTCCC DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON!**

*Now more than ever, LTCCC needs your help to sustain our work to protect the frail elderly and disabled in the coming year. As you share the gifts of the holidays with friends and loved ones, please consider helping LTCCC:*

**You can make a tax-deductible donation to LTCCC.** All donations go directly to supporting our work: from fighting for better standards to serving as a government watchdog to educating the public. [Click here](#) to make a secure donation from our website, or send a check to LTCCC, 242 West 30<sup>th</sup> St., Suite 306, New York, NY 10001.

**You can shop online through [www.ltccc.org](http://www.ltccc.org) at hundreds of stores and LTCCC will receive a donation from the store at no cost to you.** LTCCC has partnered with iGive, a reputable online shopping mall. All you need to do is access 100s of shopping websites through the "[Shop and Support LTCCC](#)" link on any of our websites. You will go directly to the website of the store of your choice, pay the same price, and the store will send a percentage of your purchase to LTCCC as a donation. Do your holiday shopping at stores like Toys R Us, L.L. Bean, Macy's, Sports Authority and The Body Shop. Plan your holiday travel with Expedia, Hilton, or Priceline. Get the things you need at Pottery Barn, Sears or the Vitamin Shoppe.

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