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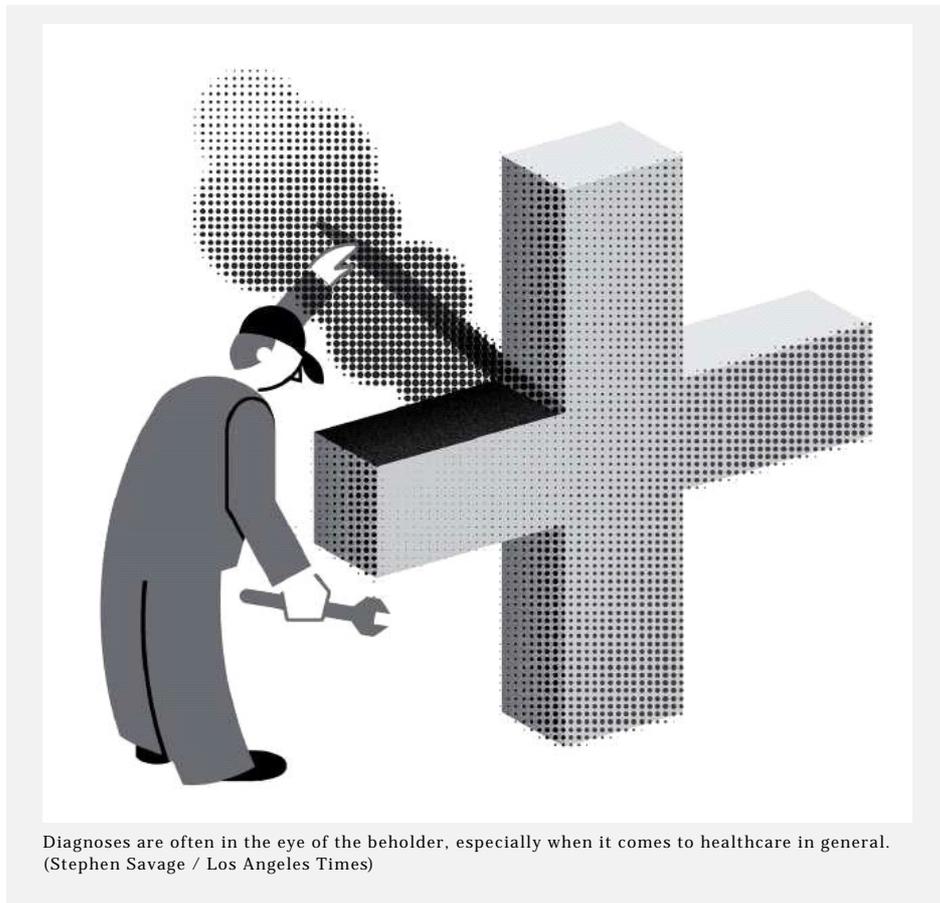
Healthcare reform to prompt employers to drop coverage? Yeah, about that...



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By Tami Dennis, HealthKey / For the Booster Shots blog
June 8, 2011 | 11:33 a.m.

The recent prediction that healthcare reform might lead employers to drop insurance coverage does not sit well with everyone. That insurance forecast, based on a report by McKinsey Quarterly, has received a fair amount of media attention -- which is perhaps unsurprising. Many Americans, with agenda or without, are regarding the upcoming changes with either anxiety or anticipation, and no one has a crystal ball.

From the [Booster Shots post](#) on the matter: "The Congressional Budget Office estimated that only 7% of employees would be forced into subsidized-exchange policies, the report said, but the survey of more than 1,300 employers suggests otherwise. That research found that 30% said they would

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'definitely or probably' drop the insurance policies."

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Nick Papas, a White House spokesman, made it quite clear that not everyone accepts such a prediction.

"The experts from the Congressional Budget Office, the Rand Corporation, the Urban Institute have reached a decidedly different conclusion. And history has shown that reform motivates more businesses to offer insurance. When Massachusetts enacted health reform, the number of individuals with employer-sponsored insurance increased," he wrote in an email.

He helpfully included links to the reports from [Rand](#), [Urban Institute](#) and [Mercer](#).

Meanwhile, the Hill's [Healthwatch blog](#) put the reaction to the McKinsey report in perspective:

"The White House and House Republicans are in a tough fight to shape public perception of the healthcare reform law after a consulting firm said it could lead to 30 percent of employers dropping coverage starting in 2014. ... With the House not in session this week, it took a while for political rhetoric to flare up after McKinsey released its report late Monday. But by Wednesday the barbs were flying."

It helpfully included a link to the [Prescription Pad blog](#) of Republicans on the House Ways and Means Committee.

If you just can't get enough of such analyses, predictions and back-and-forth, Kaiser Health News offered this roundup earlier this year: [Analysis, Predictions Mark Health Law's First Anniversary](#).

Of course, as with any prediction or reaction, consider the source.

And, if you're a consumer just trying to figure things out, try ProCon.org's take on [health reform](#). And stay tuned.

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