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The Maine Gerontological Society
with members in mind.

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Hot Topics in Aging

Providing you with quick information on the latest in aging issues

The National Council on Aging (NCOA) Center for Healthy Aging website (<http://www.healthyagingprograms.org>) includes various toolkits, replication reports, as well as sound prevention and wellness information. Good resource for families, consumers, and professionals.

AoA announces the participation of Community Aging Service Providers in a Medicare Senior Risk Reduction Demonstration program. As part of the U.S. Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Mike Leavitt's focus on prevention, HHS Assistant Secretary for Aging Josefina G. Carbonell has announced participation in a demonstration designed to help seniors stay healthy. Nine Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) programs and an Administration on Aging (AoA) Older Americans Act Information and Referral (I&R) program will participate in the Medicare Senior Risk Reduction Demonstration. The *CMS Medicare Senior Risk Reduction Demonstration* is designed to evaluate whether health promotion and disease prevention programs currently offered by national private insurers and employers can be delivered by the Medicare program. It is intended to encourage beneficiaries to engage in healthy lifestyles and practices that can help them maintain and improve their health and reduce the need for health care services for preventable illnesses and injuries. For more information about the Senior Risk Reduction Demonstration:

http://www.aoa.gov/press/pr/2007/December/12_19_07.asp

The National Academy on an Aging Society publishes a quarterly report that is designed to stimulate debate, highlight emerging concerns, and propose alternative policy options in the aging field. In its current report, one article focuses on "10 Reasons Why Shake-Ups in the Life Course Should Change Approaches to Old-Age Policies." In addition, the academy also publishes a bimonthly Public Policy and Aging Newsletter that highlights key developments and viewpoints in the field of aging policy from a wide variety of sources, including articles and reports circulating in the media, academy, think tanks, private sector, government and nonprofit organizations. To learn more about the National Academy on an Aging Society go to <http://www.agingociety.org/agingociety/index.html>

The Way We Age Now by Atul Gawande. An excerpt: "Mainstream doctors are turned off by geriatrics, and that's because they do not have the faculties to cope with the Old Crock," Eighty Seven year old Felix Silverstone, the geriatrician, explained. "The Old Crock is deaf. The Old Crock has poor vision. The Old Crock's memory might be somewhat impaired. With the Old Crock, you have to slow down, because he asks you to repeat what you are saying or asking. And the Old Crock doesn't just have a chief complaint-the Old Crock has fifteen chief complaints. How in the world are you going to cope with all of them? Dr. Atul Gawande, offers insights and answers. Dr. Gawande is a surgeon at Brigham and Women's Hospital and the Dana Farber Cancer Institute. He also writes for the *New Yorker* magazine where *The Way We Age Now* was published. Please access the article by clicking on the URL below to read a fascinating article that has been sent to health profession associations across the United States. We in Maine should be aware of this information as well.

www.newyorker.com/reporting/2007/04/30/070430fa_fact_gawande

Mrs. Rosalynn Carter recently wrote an editorial on the caregiving crisis for the CDC journal *Preventing Chronic Disease*. It has been published in the January 2008 edition and was posted online December 17, 2007. You can read the editorial at http://www.cdc.gov/pcd/issues/2008/jan/07_0162.htm