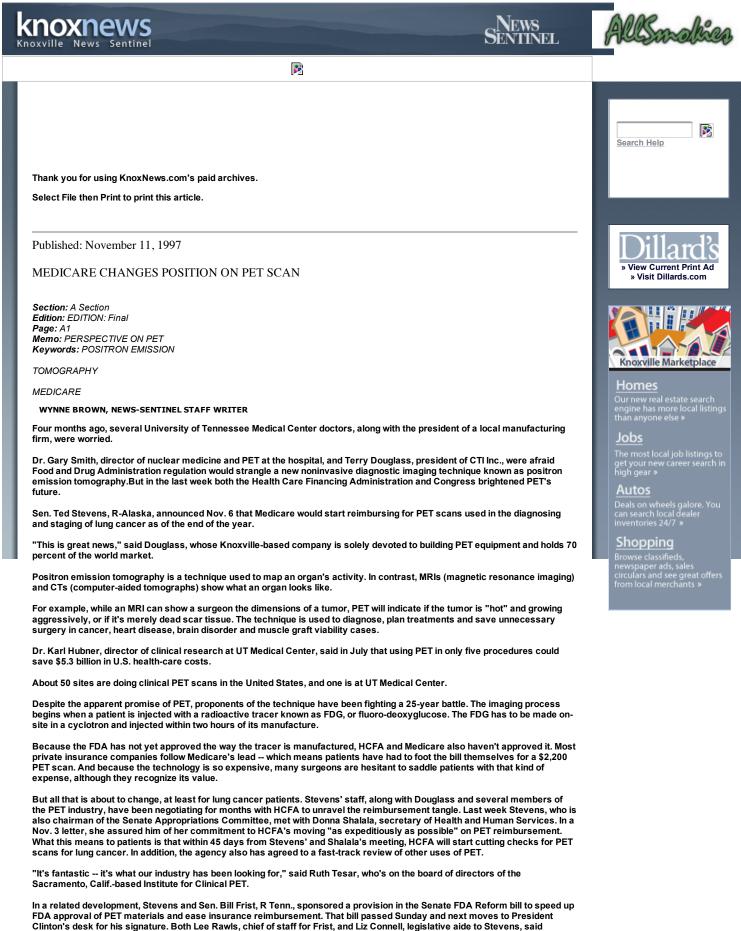
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Smith of UT Medical Center is somewhat concerned the FDA Reform Bill could actually slow down new drug applications. "It

Monday that Clinton will sign the bill within the next 10 days.

remains to be seen if FDA Reform is a good thing (for PET), but the HCFA (announcement) is certainly good news," he said Friday.

Tesar agreed new drug applications may be slowed down temporarily but said, "The intent of all this was to come up with a new, innovative way to work with the FDA. This legislation will allow breathing space for innovation to come."

Specifically, the bill revokes restrictions FDA put on PET in 1995 that, according to Smith, were almost impossible for PET sites to meet.

Connell summed up the events by saying, "The best thing about this package deal is that finally, from the secretary of Health and Human Services on down, we've legitimized PET. It won't go backwards. PET will be a recognized part of medicine. "The heartwarming part of all this is that it will benefit so many thousands of people."

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