

Wynne Health Group Weekly



FRAMING THE WEEK

With only two weeks until the August recess, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) is [pushing](#) for significant progress on the two tracks of infrastructure legislation. Today, Majority Leader Schumer is expected to file cloture on the legislative vehicle for the **bipartisan infrastructure bill**, upping the pressure on the bipartisan group to deliver legislative text for their [\\$974 billion infrastructure framework](#) ahead of the procedural vote on Wednesday.

Schumer also wants the Democratic caucus to reach a consensus by Wednesday on the **\$3.5 trillion budget resolution with reconciliation instructions**. The budget reconciliation package is expected to make permanent the temporary increase to ACA premium subsidies; expand Medicare benefits to include vision, dental, and hearing coverage; and address the Medicaid expansion gap (specific Medicaid policy has not yet been nailed down). Possible pay-fors include prescription drug pricing provisions, such as government price negotiation and Medicare Part D reform, and repurposing appropriated funds, such as the Provider Relief Fund.

Tomorrow, the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee will [question](#) members of the **White House COVID-19 task force** about the Biden Administration's response to the pandemic. Issues likely to be covered include efforts to increase COVID-19 vaccination rates (about [59 percent](#) of adults are fully vaccinated, according to the CDC); the delta variant; and the possible need for boosters; among other topics. Lawmakers may also ask the panel about any actions planned in response to the [new recommendations](#) on the COVID-19 response from the Government Accountability Office.

The House Education and Labor Committee will hold a [joint subcommittee hearing](#) tomorrow on investments in the **home health care workforce**, a major component of President Biden's American Jobs Plan. The plan features a \$400 billion investment to expand access to Medicaid home and community-based services and improve wages for home health workers.

Regulatory Update

The **calendar year (CY) 2022 Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System (HOPPS) proposed rule** [cleared review](#) at the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) late last week. This marks the final major CY Medicare payment update proposed rule to clear OMB review. Its release is expected imminently and could occur as early as this afternoon.

THIS WEEK IN HEALTH POLICY

Mon. (7/19)

- **12:30pm – Meeting: Alzheimer's Disease** – The Department of Health and Human Services holds a meeting of the Advisory Council on Alzheimer's Research, Care, and Services. [Details.](#)

Tue. (7/20)

- **10:00am – Hearing: COVID-19 Response** – The Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) convenes a hearing titled, “The Path Forward: A Federal Perspective on the COVID-19 Response.” [Details.](#)
- **10:15am – Hearing: Direct Care** – The House Education & Labor Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor and Pensions and Subcommittee on Higher Education Workforce Investment convene a joint hearing titled, “Care for Our Communities: Investing in the Direct Care Workforce.” [Details.](#)

Wed. (7/21)

- **10:00am – Hearing: Life Expectancy** – The Senate HELP Subcommittee on Primary Health and Retirement Security convenes a hearing titled, “Addressing Disparities in Life Expectancy.” [Details.](#)
- **10:30am – Hearing: Cybersecurity** – The House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations convenes a hearing titled, “Stopping Digital Thieves: The Growing Threat of Ransomware.” [Details.](#)
- **12:00pm – Discussion: Menthol Tobacco Bans** – The Alliance for Health Policy holds a virtual discussion titled, “Understanding Potential Menthol Tobacco Bans and their Impact on Communities of Color.” [Details.](#)

Thurs. (7/22)

- **10:00am – Hearing: Labor Unions** – The Senate HELP Committee convenes a hearing titled, “The Right to Organize: Empowering American Workers in a 21st Century Economy.” [Details.](#)

FEATURED WHG ANALYSIS

- ***NEW* WHG Side-by-Side of Health Technology Assessment Models** – In the Policy Hub Insight Bank [here.](#)
- **WHG Updated 2021 Legislative and Regulatory Outlook** – In the Policy Hub Insight Bank [here.](#)
- **WHG Chart Key Federal Public Option Bills in the 117th Congress; Side-by-Side Comparison** – In the Policy Hub Insight Bank [here.](#)
- **WHG Overview of Recent Development on Federal Telehealth Policy** – In the Policy Hub Insight Bank [here.](#)
- **WHG Chart of the Major Drug Pricing Proposals in the 117th Congress** – In the Policy Hub Insight Bank [here.](#)
- **WHG Round Up of Key CMMI Developments** – In the Policy Hub Insight Bank [here.](#)

CONGRESSIONAL LOOKBACK

Thursday (7/15)

- **The House Appropriations Committee** convened a [markup](#) of the FY 2022 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (LHHS) appropriations bill. [Details.](#)
- **House E&C Subcommittee on Health** [convened](#) a markup of 19 health-related bills. [Details.](#)

Tuesday (7/13)

- **The Senate Judiciary Subcommittee** on Competition Policy, Antitrust, and Consumer Rights [convened](#) a hearing to examine the anticompetitive practices in the pharmaceutical industry. [Details.](#)

Monday (7/12)

- **The House Agriculture Subcommittee** on Nutrition, Oversight, and Department Operations [convened](#) a hearing to discuss benefit cliffs in SNAP. [Details.](#)

REGULATORY LOOKBACK

Thursday (7/15)

- **The GAO** [released](#) a report on the health care service needs and costs resulting from firearm injuries in the United States. [Details](#).

Wednesday (7/14)

- **The FCC** [released](#) a final rule offering further guidance on implementing its Connected Care Pilot Program. [Details](#).
- **MACPAC** released an [issue brief](#) analyzing the effects of the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act. [Details](#).
- **CMS** [announced](#) that more than two million people have enrolled in health coverage during the Biden-Harris Administration's SEP. [Detail](#).

Tuesday (7/13)

- **CMS** [released](#) its calendar year (CY) 2022 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS) proposed rule. Comments are due September 13. [Details](#).

COMMENT & APPLICATION DEADLINES

- **July 19:** The FDA [issued](#) draft guidance on feasibility and early feasibility clinical studies for medical devices intended to improve glycemic control in patients with Type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM). [Details](#).
- **July 23:** HHS [issued](#) a request for information (RFI) on implementing the prescription drug reporting requirements for group health plans and health insurance issuers. [Details](#).
- **July 28:** CMS [released](#) a proposed rule to improve access and affordability for consumers in the individual market. [Details](#).
- **July 28:** CMS is [currently accepting comments](#) on the development and maintenance of the outcome electronic clinical quality measure (eCQM), Hospital Harm – Falls with Major Injury. [Details](#).
- **August 2:** FDA [issued](#) draft guidance on oral drug products administered via enteral feeding tube. Comments are due August 2. [Details](#).
- **August 6:** The White House ONDCP [issued](#) a request for information seeking feedback on whether and to what extent its policies and programs perpetuate systemic barriers to opportunities for underserved communities. [Details](#).
- **August 27:** CMS [issued](#) the cycle year (CY) 2022 home health prospective payment system and rate update proposed rule. Comments are due August 27. [Details](#).
- **August 27:** PCORI [issued](#) a request for comment on its five national priorities for health that will serve as the foundation for developing PCORI's Research Agenda. [Details](#).
- **August 27:** The FDA [issued](#) draft guidance entitled "Cancer Clinical Trial Eligibility Criteria: Approach to Available Therapy in Non-Curative Settings." [Details](#).
- **August 31:** The CDC [seeks](#) nominations for the CDC/Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) Advisory Committee on HIV, Viral Hepatitis, and STD Prevention and Treatment (CHACHSPT). [Details](#).
- **September 13:** CMS [released](#) its calendar year (CY) 2022 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS) proposed rule. [Details](#).
- **September 15:** The NIH Office of Research on Women's Health [requests](#) comments to inform planning of the Women's Health Consensus Conference. [Details](#).
- **September 17:** The CDC [announced](#) it is seeking nominations for individuals to serve as members of the Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee. [Details](#).

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