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Wynne Health Group Weekly



FRAMING THE WEEK

This week the House starts a two-week district work period while the Senate is in session one more week before the President's Day recess. After a slow start to the year, the Senate will hold several policy focused hearings this week, including:

The Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions will hold a [hearing](#) on Thursday to examine healthcare workforce shortages and next steps. Workforce shortages is a top priority for HELP Committee Chairman Bernie Sanders (I-VT).

Also on Thursday, the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation will hold a [hearing](#) to titled "Bringing Transparency and Accountability to Pharmacy Benefit Managers." The focus of this hearing will be on Committee Chair Maria Cantwell's legislation "Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PBM) Transparency Act" ([S.127](#)) which is cosponsored by Senator Chuck Grassley (R-IA) and will bring transparency into PBM business practices and prohibit unfair or deceptive conduct that drives up drug prices.

Finally, the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry will hold a [hearing](#) on Thursday to discuss nutrition programs of the Farm Bill. Witnesses include Ms. Stacy Dean, Deputy Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services at USDA and Mrs. Cindy Long, Administrator.

Last week, the Wynne Health Group put out a comprehensive [Committee Guide](#) highlighting the new Committees and issues they are likely to take up in the 118th Congress.

Regulatory Update

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) may soon release a [proposed rule](#) intended to promote payment accuracy and efficiency in Medicare, Medicaid, and CHIP. The proposal, which recently cleared review at the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), is also expected to include new disclosure requirements for Medicare skilled nursing facilities and Medicaid nursing facilities.

THIS WEEK IN HEALTH POLICY

Wed. (2/15)

- **10:30am – HITAC Meeting: Interoperability Standards** – The Health Information Technology Advisory Committee (HITAC) holds a meeting of the Interoperability Standards Workgroup to discuss program updates. [Details](#).
- **2:00pm – CMS Meeting: Social Needs Through Medicaid** – The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) holds a webinar to explore its new guidance to help states enhance and expand efforts to address health-related social needs of Medicaid enrollees. [Details](#).

Thurs. (2/16)

- **10:00am – Hearing: Health Care Workforce Shortages** – The Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions holds a hearing to examine healthcare workforce shortages and next steps. [Details.](#)
- **10:00am – Hearing: Transparency in PBMs** – The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation holds a hearing to address how the “Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PBM) Transparency Act” ([S.127](#)) will bring transparency into PBM business practices and prohibit unfair or deceptive conduct that drives up drug prices. [Details.](#)
- **10:00am – Hearing: Farm Bill** – The Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry holds a hearing to discuss nutrition programs of the Farm Bill. One additional Farm Bill hearing is scheduled for March 1, which will focus on conservation and forestry programs. [Details.](#)
- **1:30pm – NQF Meeting: Health Equity** – The National Quality Forum (NQF) holds a meeting of the Core Quality Measures Collaborative (CQMC) Health Equity Workgroup to discuss program updates. [Details.](#)
- **2:00pm – BPC Discussion: Medicare** – The Bipartisan Policy Center (BPC) holds a discussion titled “Ensuring Medicare’s Sustainability.” [Details.](#)

Fri. (2/17)

- **9:00am – NIH Meeting: Clinical Center** – The National Institutes of Health (NIH) holds a meeting of the Office of the Director to discuss NIH Clinical Center organizational priorities. [Details.](#)

Additional Multi-Day Events

- **February 13-14 – CMS Meeting: MEDCAC Panel** – CMS holds a panel of the Medicare Evidence Development and Coverage Advisory Committee (MEDCAC) to examine the requirements for clinical studies submitted for CMS coverage under Coverage with Evidence Development (CED). [Details.](#)

FEATURED WHG ANALYSIS

- ***NEW* WHG Tracker of COVID-19 PHE Flexibilities** – In the Policy Hub Insight Bank [here](#)
- ***NEW* WHG Health Policy Guide to the 118th Congress** – In the Policy Hub Insight Bank [here.](#)
- **WHG Roundup of Surprise Billing and Transparency Updates**– In the Policy Hub Insight Bank [here.](#)
- **WHG Maternal Health Policy Update: November – December 2022** – In the Policy Hub Insight Bank [here.](#)

CONGRESSIONAL LOOKBACK

Mon. (2/6)

- **The E&C Health Subcommittee convened** a hearing to examine legislation related to addressing the fentanyl crisis, improving cybersecurity protections for the 9-8-8 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, and prohibiting the use of QALYs. [Details.](#)

REGULATORY LOOKBACK

Fri. (2/10)

- **HHS issued** a SNPRM on the elimination of waiver requirements to prescribe OUD treatments. Comments are due March 14. [Details.](#)

Thurs. (2/9)

- **CMS released** initial guidance for the Medicare Part B and Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Inflation Rebate Program. Comments are due March 11. [Details](#).
- **The OASH issued** an RFI on the development of a report on promising practices for advancing health equity for intersex individuals to ensure access to affirming, high-quality care for intersex people. [Details](#).

Tues. (2/7)

- In the [STOU](#), **President Biden** outlined his health care and public health agenda. [Details](#).
- **HHS OIG released** a technical assistance brief on the implementation of inflation-indexed rebates for Part B drugs. [Details](#).

COMMENT & APPLICATION DEADLINES

- **February 13:** CMS [released](#) the CY 2024 policy and technical changes to the MA and Part D programs. [Details](#).
- **February 13:** HHS [issued](#) a request for public comment on new indicator targets for the National Action Plan to Prevent Health Care-Associated Infections. [Details](#).
- **February 21:** USPSTF [requested](#) comment on a draft recommendation statement and draft evidence review on screening for lipid disorders in children and adolescents. [Details](#).
- **February 23:** The GAO [issued](#) a request for nominations for appointments to MedPAC. [Details](#).
- **March 6:** FNS [announced](#) \$60.58 million in funding for round two Reach and Resiliency grants in The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP). [Details](#).
- **March 4:** CMS [announced](#) the CY 2024 Advance Notice for MA and Part D. [Details](#).
- **March 9:** The FDA [issued](#) a proposed rule to establish a new annual reporting requirement for investigational new drug applications. [Details](#).
- **March 9:** The FDA [issued](#) draft guidance on content of human factors information in medical device marketing submissions. [Details](#).
- **March 11:** CMS [released](#) initial guidance for the Medicare Part B and Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Inflation Rebate Program. [Details](#).
- **March 13:** CMS [released](#) a proposed rule to improve the electronic exchange of health care data and streamline prior authorization. [Details](#).
- **March 14:** HHS and other agencies jointly [issued](#) a proposed rule to restore protections against religious discrimination for beneficiaries and prospective beneficiaries of federally funded services and programs. [Details](#).
- **March 14:** HHS [issued](#) a SNPRM on the elimination of waiver requirements to prescribe OUD treatments. [Details](#).
- **March 15:** The USPSTF [issued](#) a request for nominations to serve as members of the Task Force. [Details](#).
- **March 19:** The FDA [issued](#) draft guidance on optimizing the dosage of human prescription drugs and biological products for the treatment of oncologic diseases. [Details](#).
- **March 31:** The FDA [issued](#) draft guidance on recommendations for evaluating donor eligibility using individual risk-based questions to reduce the risk of HIV by blood and blood products. [Details](#).
- **April 3:** HHS [proposed new rules](#) to expand access to contraceptive services under the ACA. [Details](#).
- **April 12:** The OMB [requests](#) comments on initial proposals to improve the quality and usefulness of race and ethnicity data collected and reported across federal agencies. [Details](#).

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