

Wynne Health Group Weekly



FRAMING THE WEEK

Congress returns this week after a two-week spring recess. House leadership will be starting the week in New York City with Speaker McCarthy giving a speech at the New York Stock Exchange this morning where he will likely begin to outline the House Republican's loosely forming debt ceiling package. The House Judiciary Committee will also be in New York City as Judiciary Chairman Jim Jordan is holding a hearing titled "Victims of Violent Crime in Manhattan."

The House is scheduled to be in session until Thursday afternoon, and will vote on an array of [bills](#) including [H.R. 734](#), the Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act of 2023 which will generally prohibit school athletic programs from allowing individuals whose biological sex at birth was male to participate in programs that are for women or girls.

The Senate also comes back into session this afternoon. Republican Leader Mitch McConnell will be back for the first time since he suffered a fall in early March. A priority for Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer will be to offer an updated organizing resolution that names a new Democratic senator to the Judiciary Committee to temporarily replace California Senator Dianne Feinstein, who is recovering from shingles. Such a change will require all 100 senators to fast-track it, or 60 votes to pass it. There is no guarantee that Republicans will support such a move to help Democrats confirm additional judges.

The Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee's plans to mark-up drug pricing legislation focused on pharmacy benefit managers and generic drugs have been pushed from the originally scheduled April 19 date as the Committee gathers more information. A new date has not been set. The package is likely to feature provisions that increase transparency of PBM practices and support the development of biosimilar and generic drugs.

Hearings

There will be several hearings throughout the week on both sides of the Capitol, including several on Wednesday:

- On Wednesday the House Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health will hold a [hearing](#) to examine current federal programs to support health care workforce and improve primary care.
- Also on Wednesday, the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Subcommittee on Food and Nutrition, Specialty Crops, Organics, and Research will hold a [hearing](#) to examine Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits and other nutrition assistance in the Farm Bill. Meanwhile, the Senate Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies will hold a [hearing](#) to

examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2024 for the FDA. FDA Commissioner Dr. Robert Califf will be testifying.

- Finally, the House Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee will hold a [hearing](#), also on Wednesday, on the FY 2024 budget requests for the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response.

Black Maternal Health Week

HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra is hosting a [roundtable](#) ([announcement](#); [registration](#)) this morning to celebrate **Black Maternal Health Week** (April 11-17). Currently, pregnancy-related mortality rates among Black women are more than three times higher than the rate for white women. Black women also suffer higher shares of preterm births, low birthweight births, and infant mortality than their white peers. Today's round table features experts representing various fields to discuss best practices and best innovative models used to improve Black maternal and infant health outcomes. Secretary Becerra is highlighting actions HHS has taken to reduce disparities, including extending postpartum coverage under Medicaid from 60 days to 12 months in 31 states plus the District of Columbia. Over the last week, the White House issued a [Proclamation on Black Maternal Health Week](#) highlighting the vast disparities in maternal health and underscoring that tackling the crisis "begins with understanding how institutional racism drives these high maternal mortality rates." The House and Senate issued a [resolution](#) signed by more than 100 members of Congress. Federal agencies have highlighted their work in this important area including the National Institutes of Health (NIH's) [Office of Research on Women's Health](#) and the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#).

THIS WEEK IN HEALTH POLICY

Mon. (4/17)

- **9:00am – FDA Meeting: Antimicrobial Drugs Advisory Committee** – The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) holds a meeting of the Antimicrobial Drugs Advisory Committee to discuss new drug application for sulbactam-durlobactam for injection, submitted by Entasis Therapeutics, Inc. for the treatment of infections due to *Acinetobacter baumannii-calcoaceticus* complex including multidrug-resistant and carbapenem-resistant strains.. [Details](#).
- **10:00am – HRSA Meeting: Community-Based Linkages** – The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) holds a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Interdisciplinary, Community-Based Linkages to discuss the Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program and other updates. [Details](#).
- **10:00am – HHS Roundtable: Maternal and Infant Health** – The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) holds a roundtable discussion of the Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships to discuss best practices and best innovative models used to improve Black maternal and infant health outcomes. HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra will host the event. [Details](#).

Tue. (4/18)

- **10:00am – Hearing: Unaccompanied Alien Children Program** – The House Committee on Oversight and Accountability Subcommittee on National Security, the Border and Foreign Affairs Subcommittee holds a hearing to examine oversight of the Office of Refugee Resettlement's Unaccompanied Alien Children Program. [Details](#).
- **10:30am – Hearing: HHS Oversight of Unaccompanied Minors, Grant Management, and CMS** – The House Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Oversight and

Investigations holds a hearing to examine HHS oversight on unaccompanied minors, grant management by the NIH, and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). HHS Inspector General Christi Grimm will be testifying. [Details](#).

- **11:00am – BPC Discussion: Obesity Treatment**– The Bipartisan Policy Center holds a discussion on obesity’s impact and potential policy solutions to prevent and treat this disease. [Details](#).
- **1:00pm – FDA Webinar: Transition Guidance for Medical Devices** – The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) holds a webinar to discuss the two final guidances on the COVID-19 transition plans for medical devices with interested stakeholders. [Details](#).

Wed. (4/19)

- **10:00am – Hearing: Health Care Workforce** – The House Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health holds a hearing to examine current federal programs to support health care workforce and improve primary care. [Details](#).
- **10:00 am – Hearing: President’s 2024 CDC, ASPR, and NIH Budget Request** – The House Appropriations Committee holds a hearing to examine the President’s proposed budget request for fiscal year 2024 for the CDC, NIH, and ASPR. [Details](#).
- **12:00pm – Hearing: Nutrition Programs in the Farm Bill** – The Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Subcommittee on Food and Nutrition, Specialty Crops, Organics, and Research holds a hearing to examine Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits and other nutrition assistance in the Farm Bill. [Details](#).
- **2:30pm – Hearing: President’s 2024 FDA Budget Request** – The Senate Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies holds a hearing to examine the President’s proposed budget request for fiscal year 2024 for the FDA. FDA Commissioner Dr. Robert Califf will be testifying. [Details](#).
- **3:00pm – Duke-Margolis Webinar: Risk Adjustment** – The Duke-Margolis Center for Health Policy holds a webinar to discuss recent changes by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to its risk adjustment methodology and future opportunities to improve the risk adjustment system. [Details](#).

Additional Multi-Day Events

- **April 18-April 19 – CDC/HRSA Meeting: HIV, Viral Hepatitis and STD Prevention** – The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) hold a meeting of the CDC/HRSA Advisory Committee on HIV, Viral Hepatitis and STD Prevention and Treatment (CHAC) to discuss sexual health, equitable scare-up interventions, monkeypox, and youth and STD testing. [Details](#).
- **April 19-April 20 – CDC Meeting: Community Preventive Services** – The (CDC) holds a meeting of the Community Preventive Services Task Force (CPSTF) to discuss mental health, substance use, and cancer screening. [Details](#).

FEATURED WHG ANALYSIS

- **WHG Tracker of COVID-19 PHE Flexibilities** – In the Policy Hub Insight Bank [here](#)
- **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

Fri. (4/14)

- **MedPAC** [convened](#) virtually for Day Two of its April 2023 public meeting and held sessions on telehealth and behavioral health. All WHG session summaries are available on Policy Hub [here](#).
- **MACPAC** [convened](#) virtually for Day Two of its April 2023 public meeting and held a session to vote on recommendations for the June report. All WHG session summaries are available on Policy Hub [here](#)

Thurs. (4/13)

- **MedPAC** [convened](#) virtually for Day One of its April 2023 public meeting and held sessions on Medicare's wage index, high prices of Part B drugs, a design for a PAC PPS, postsale rebates for prescription drugs in Part D, and safety net payments. All WHG session summaries are available on Policy Hub [here](#).
- **MACPAC** [convened](#) virtually for Day One of its April 2023 public meeting and held sessions on DSH allotments, integrating care for dual eligibles, dental benefits, and unwinding the PHE. All WHG session summaries are available on Policy Hub [here](#)

REGULATORY LOOKBACK

Thurs. (4/13)

- **The Departments of Labor, HHS, and the Treasury** [released](#) FAQs regarding coverage of preventive services in light of the recent court decision in Braidwood Management Inc. v. Becerra. [Details](#).

Weds. (4/12)

- **HHS OCR** [released](#) a proposed rule to modify HIPAA Privacy Rule to better protect sensitive information related to reproductive health care. Comments are due June 16. [Details](#).
- **The NIH** [issued](#) an RFI inviting input on research opportunities and best practices for Food is Medicine research program. Comments are due June 30. [Details](#).

Tues. (4/11)

- **HHS ONC** [issued](#) a proposed rule to revise and enhance the ONCE Health IT Certification Program. Comments are due June 20. [Details](#).
- **HHS OCR** [announced](#) that the Notifications of Enforcement Discretion issued under HIPAA and HITECH will expire on May 11. [Details](#).

Mon. (4/10)

- **CMS** [released](#) the FY 2024 IPPS and LTCH PPS proposed rule. Comments are due June 9. [Details](#).

COMMENT & APPLICATION DEADLINES

- **April 24:** The FCC released both a [proposed rule](#) and a [final rule](#) for the Rural Health Care Program. [Details](#).
- **April 25:** CMS [issued](#) a proposed rule to implement requirements under section 203 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (CAA), which relate to Medicaid shortfall and third-party payments. [Details](#).
- **April 27:** HRSA [announced](#) a funding opportunity through its Nurse Education, Practice, Quality and Retention (NEPQR)-Pathway to Registered Nurse Program (PRNP). [Details](#).
- **April 28:** CMS [issued](#) a proposed rule that seeks to further clarify the treatment of inpatient days associated with Medicaid Section 1115 demonstrations in the calculation of Medicare disproportionate share hospital (DSH) payments. [Details](#).

- **May 1:** The NIH [announced](#) a number of grants to address health disparities and advance health equity. Applications are due May 1. [Details.](#)
- **May 1:** The NTIA [issued](#) a request for comments on the Digital Equity Act of 2021 Program. [Details.](#)
- **May 8:** SAMHSA [released](#) grant opportunity for cooperative agreements to implement the Zero Suicide intervention and prevention model in health systems. [Details.](#)
- **May 22:** The AHRQ [issued](#) a request for nominations for new members of the National Advisory Council for Healthcare Research and Quality. [Details.](#)
- **May 24:** The FNS [released](#) a proposed rule to support online ordering in WIC. [Details.](#)
- **May 26:** The AHRQ [issued](#) a request for nominations for new members of the National Advisory Council for Healthcare Research and Quality. [Details.](#)
- **May 30:** CMS [released](#) the FY 2024 hospice payment rate update proposed rule. [Details.](#)
- **June 2:** CMS [released](#) the FY 2024 IRF PPS proposed rule. [Details.](#)
- **June 9:** CMS [released](#) the FY 2024 IPPS and LTCH PPS proposed rule. [Details.](#)
- **June 16:** HHS OCR [released](#) a proposed rule to modify HIPAA Privacy Rule to better protect sensitive information related to reproductive health care. Comments are due June 16. [Details.](#)
- **June 20:** HHS ONC [issued](#) a proposed rule to revise and enhance the ONCE Health IT Certification Program. Comments are due June 20. [Details.](#)
- **June 30:** The NIH [issued](#) an RFI inviting input on research opportunities and best practices for Food is Medicine research program. [Details](#)
- **August 28:** The FDA [issued](#) an RFI to assess whether in-home disposal products can mitigate the risk of nonmedical use or overdose of opioid analgesics. Submissions are due August 28. [Details.](#)
- **September 6:** The FDA [issued](#) a proposed rule to establish tobacco product manufacturing practice (TPMP) requirements. [Details.](#)

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