

## Impact Health Policy Weekly

### Framing the Week

The House returns today after being on recess last week, and the Senate is scheduled to come back into session tomorrow. This week the House could bring up the Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act of 2024, a bipartisan bill to expand the Child Tax Credit and provide an assortment of business tax benefits. The Senate will be focusing on the border security and foreign aid supplemental deal that was announced over the weekend. Text of the long-awaited negotiations is expected to be released early this week and it could see floor action by the end of the week. It remains to be seen if the bill will garner enough Republican votes to pass, especially after former President Trump tweeted his disapproval of the negotiations last week and House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) has repeatedly stated he would not support anything less than what the House has already passed. Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell is very supportive of the deal and has repeatedly said this is the time to pass border security legislation.

It was reported on Friday that the House and Senate Appropriations Committees have agreed on Subcommittee spending allocations (otherwise known as 302b's). The numbers have not been made public yet, but this agreement will allow the Subcommittees to begin to conference the details of their bills and work towards an omnibus package before the current Continuing Resolutions expire on March 1 and March 8.

### Hearings

House Energy and Commerce Committee: The House Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee will hold a [hearing](#) on Wednesday titled "Health Care Spending in the United States" which will examine the factors causing cost increases for individuals, for the health care sector, and for federal health programs such as Medicare and Medicaid.

### Regulatory Update

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) completed reviewing a [final rule](#) would make regulatory changes to safeguard the confidentiality of substance use disorder records, as required by the CARES Act. OMB is also reviewing the following rules:

### Medicare

- **Alternative Payment Models** – The [proposed rule](#) would implement a new Medicare payment model titled, Increasing Organ Transplant Access (IOTA) Model.
- **Medicare Advantage and Part D** – The [proposed rule](#) would make changes for CY 2025 for MA capitation rates and Part C and Part payment policies. Additionally, the proposed rule would provide draft CY 2025 Part D redesign program instructions.

#### Medicaid

- **Disproportionate Share Hospital Program** – The [final rule](#) would implement requirements under section 203 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (CAA), which relate to Medicaid shortfall and third-party payments.
- **Eligibility and Enrollment** – The [final rule](#) would **implement** changes to align enrollment and renewal requirements for most individuals in Medicaid and promote maintenance of coverage.
- **Access to Care** – A pair of **final rule intended to** access to care and quality outcomes for Medicaid and CHIP beneficiaries enrolled in [managed care delivery systems](#) and [fee-for-service Medicaid](#).

#### Other Topics:

- **Healthcare System Resiliency and Modernization** – The [proposed rule](#) would revise and update national emergency preparedness requirements for Medicare- and Medicaid-participating providers and suppliers.

#### This Week in Health Policy

##### Mon. (1/29)

- **3:30pm – Hearing: VA Data Privacy and AI** – The House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Technology Modernization Oversight holds a hearing to examine the future of data privacy and artificial intelligence (AI) at Veterans' Affairs (VA). [Details](#).

##### Tue. (1/30)

- **8:30am – NIH Meeting: Allergy and Infectious Diseases Updates** – The National Institutes of Health (NIH) holds a meeting of the National Advisory Allergy and Infectious Diseases Council to discuss program updates regarding multiple Subcommittees, including AIDS, immunology, and microbiology. [Details](#).
- **10:00am – HITAC Meeting: Interoperability Standards** – The Health Information Technology Advisory Committee (HITAC) holds a meeting of the Interoperability Standards Workgroup to discuss program updates. [Details](#).

- **10:00am – Hearing: Border Crisis**– The House Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution and Limited Government holds a hearing to examine states’ authority to secure the southern border when the federal executive fails to do so. [Details.](#)
- **10:30am – Hearing: Oversight of EPA Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund** – The House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations holds a hearing to examine the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) appropriated through the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (IRA). EPA Senior Advisor to the Administrator Zealan Hoover will be testifying. [Details.](#)

**Wed. (1/31)**

- **9:00am – HHS Meeting: Food is Medicine Summit** – The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) holds the first ever Food is Medicine Summit for policymakers, advocates, researchers, and a wide variety of stakeholders with equities in the Food is Medicine space to engage in a substantive conversation about why food is medicine is important, what actions are being taken to promote this concept, and what stakeholders can do to bolster this work. [Details.](#)
- **10:00am – Hearing: Housing Affordability** – The Senate Budget Committee holds a hearing to examine expanding housing affordability. [Details.](#)
- **10:00am – Hearing: Health Care Spending** – The House Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee holds a hearing to examine the factors causing cost increases for individuals, for the health care sector, and for federal health programs such as Medicare and Medicaid. [Details.](#)
- **10:00am – Hearing: HHS Compliance with Congress** – The House Oversight and Accountability Select Subcommittee holds a hearing to examine HHS’s compliance with Congress. [Details.](#)
- **10:00am – Hearing: CBO’s Role in Fiscal Responsibility** – The House Budget Committee holds a hearing titled “Creating a Culture of Fiscal Responsibility: Assessing the Role of the Congressional Budget Office (CBO).” A webcast will not be available. [Details.](#)
- **10:15am – Markup: Cybersecurity and Border Security** – The Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee holds a markup of several bills aimed at improving federal cybersecurity and a bill to improve border security, among others. [Details.](#)
- **10:30am – BPC Discussion: Improving Information Exchange Between FDA and CMS** – The Bipartisan Policy Center (BPC) holds a discussion on the dynamic landscape of Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) regulations, developing strategies for a resilient and collaborative regulatory infrastructure, and unveiling a report with practical, bipartisan steps to enhance collaboration between the regulatory bodies. [Details.](#)
- **3:00pm – HITAC Meeting: Annual Report Workgroup** – HITAC holds a meeting of the Annual Report Workgroup to discuss program updates. [Details.](#)
- **3:30pm – Hearing: Veterans Mental Health Needs** – The Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee holds a hearing to examine Vet Centers, focusing on supporting the mental health needs of servicemembers, veterans and their families. [Details.](#)
- **5:30am – Politico Discussion: Alzheimer’s** – Politico holds a discussion on Alzheimer’s disease with lawmakers, officials, and experts to discuss the path forward for better collaboration among health systems and industry, the risks, and benefits and what new opportunities are

emerging to improve early diagnosis, treatments, and outreach to underrepresented communities. [Details.](#)

#### **Thurs. (2/1)**

- **8:00am – A4H Meeting: Accountable Care Outlook and Successes** – Accountable for Health (A4H) hosts a conference as part of Health Care Value Week to discuss the progress of value-based care. Participants include staff from the House Ways and Means Committee and the Seante Finance Committee, and Liz Fowler, Director at the CMS Innovation Center. [Details.](#)
- **12:00pm – CMS Meeting: Consumer Education Strategies** – The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) holds a meeting of the Advisory Panel on Outreach and Education (APOE) to discuss opportunities to enhance the effectiveness of consumer education strategies concerning the Health Insurance Marketplace, Medicare, Medicaid, and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). [Details.](#)
- **1:00pm – AHP Discussion: Media Perspectives on Value-Based Care** – The Alliance for Health Policy (AHP) holds a discussion to explore the current value-based care landscape, highlight anticipated policy discussions for the coming year, and identify key considerations for reporters and media experts. Purva Rawal, Ph.D., Chief Strategy Officer at the CMS Innovation Center will be participating. [Details.](#)
- **4:00pm – RAND Corporation Discussion: Maternal Care and Health Outcomes** – The RAND Corporation holds a town hall to discuss RAND's upcoming survey of state initiatives related to maternal care and health outcomes. [Details.](#)

#### **Fri. (2/2)**

- **11:00am – NIH Meeting: Minority Health/Health Disparities** – The NIH holds a meeting of the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities for a report from the director and other program updates, including innovations to eliminate women's health disparities. [Details.](#)

#### **Additional Multi-Day Events**

- **Jan. 29-Jan. 30 – HRSA Meeting: Heritable Disorders in Newborns and Children** – The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) holds a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Heritable Disorders in Newborns and Children to discuss program updates, including a final evidence-based review report on the Krabbe disease condition nomination for possible inclusion on the Recommended Uniform Screening Panel. [Details.](#)
- **Jan. 29-Feb. 2 – Global Health Care Summit: Value Based Payment** – Global Health Care holds the Third Virtual Value-Based Payment Summit to discuss congressional and administrative perspectives on accountable care, including insights on accelerating value-based care adoption in health systems, and Medicare Advantage's role. [Details.](#)
- **Feb. 1-Feb. 3 – AMA Meeting: CPT** – The American Medical Association (AMA) holds a meeting of the Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) Editorial Panel to discuss new CPT codes and to revise or delete existing codes. [Details.](#)

#### **Featured Analysis**

- **\*NEW\* Impact Roundup of January Behavioral Health Actions** – In the Policy Hub Insight Bank [here](#).
- **Impact Chart of Key Provisions of Legislative Proposals on Health Care Price Transparency Requirements** – In the Policy Hub Insight Bank [here](#).
- **Impact Regulatory Outlook: Fall 2023 Unified Agenda** – In the Policy Hub Insight Bank [here](#).
- **Impact Mental Health Legislative Update** – In the Policy Hub Insight Bank [here](#).
- **Impact Artificial Intelligence Policy Round Up** – In the Policy Hub Insight Bank [here](#).

### Congressional Lookback

#### Fri. (1/26)

- **MACPAC** convened virtually for Day Two of its [January 2024 public meeting](#) and held a session on enrollment trends in the Medicare savings program. All Impact session summaries are available on Policy Hub [here](#).

#### Thurs. (1/25)

- The SFC released a [white paper and legislative framework](#) to prevent and mitigate shortages of generic drug. [Details](#).
- **MACPAC** convened virtually for Day One of its [January 2024 public meeting](#) and held sessions on managed care denials and appeals, self-reported disability data collection, Medicaid financing transparency, contracts, access to physician services, and physician administered drugs. All Impact session summaries are available on Policy Hub [here](#).

#### Tues. (1/23)

- The House Ed and Workforce Committee issued a [request for information \(RFI\)](#) to inform legislative reforms to employer-sponsored health care. Comments are due March 15. [Details](#).

### Regulatory Lookback

#### Thurs. (1/25)

- **CMS** issued an [RFI](#) on Medicare Advantage data. Responses are due May 29. [Details](#).
- **HHS** unveiled a set of [voluntary cybersecurity performance goals](#) (CPGs) aimed at strengthening digital defenses in the health care sector. [Details](#).
- **HHS and the Department of Education** announced [new actions](#) to increase access to school-based health services, particularly for mental health services. [Details](#).

#### Weds. (1/24)

- **CMS** released a [final rule](#) to advance interoperability and improve prior authorization. [Details](#).

**Tues. (1/23)**

- HHS OIG released a [report](#) on nursing home reporting of COVID-19 data. [Details.](#)

**Mon. (1/22)**

- HHS announced a [series of new actions](#) to protect and expand access to contraception. [Details.](#)
- HHS released [guidance](#) aimed at preventing homelessness for young adults who have transitioned out of foster care. [Details.](#)

**Comment & Application Deadlines**

- **January 30:** CMMI released an [RFA](#) for the GUIDE model. [Details.](#)
- **January 30:** HUD [announced](#) a [proposed rule](#) that would require 30-day written notice before eviction proceedings begin.
- **January 31:** SAMHSA is soliciting [public input](#) on a series of questions related to the prevention and treatment of maternal mental health conditions and substance use disorders. [Details.](#)
- **February 2:** CMS released an [interim final rule](#) with a comment period regarding the unwinding of continuous coverage requirements. [Details.](#)
- **February 5:** CMMI released the [NOFO](#) for the Ahead Model. [Details.](#)
- **February 6:** HHS and NIST released a [Draft Interagency Guidance Framework for Considering the Exercise of March-In Rights](#), which reviews the factors that an agency may consider when deciding whether to exercise march-in rights. [Details.](#)
- **February 9:** The GAO [issued](#) a request for letters of nomination and resumes for MedPAC. [Details.](#)
- **February 12:** The DOJ issued a [NRPM](#) under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to update regulations regarding the accessibility of medical diagnostic equipment. [Details.](#)
- **February 14:** The USDA FNS announced [two research-based funding opportunities](#) to develop a subgrant program related to the WIC Program. [Details.](#)
- **February 18:** The DOL released a [proposed rule](#) to completely rescind the Trump-era policy, “Definition of Employer – Association Health Plans,” that expanded the definition of association health plans. [Details.](#)
- **February 29:** The Biden Administration launched a new program called Health care Rewards to Achieve Improved Outcomes ([HEROES](#)) through the ARPA-H. [Details.](#)
- **April 2:** HRSA announced a [notice of funding opportunity](#) under the State Maternal Health Innovation program. [Details.](#)
- **March 6:** CMMI announced the [State Advancing AHEAD Model](#) to address unsustainable health care cost growth, poor population health, and disparities in health outcomes. [Details.](#)
- **March 15:** The USPSTF issued a [request for nominations](#) to serve as members of the Task Force. [Details.](#)

- **March 15:** The House Ed and Workforce Committee issued a [request for information \(RFI\)](#) to inform legislative reforms to employer-sponsored health care. [Details](#).