

Impact Health Policy Weekly

Framing the Week

The House and Senate are both scheduled to return tomorrow. When the House gavels into session there are several bills [scheduled](#) a number of bills to be voted on under suspension, including [H.R. 4581](#), the Maternal and Child Health Stillbirth Prevention Act of 2023 and [H.R. 6960](#), the Emergency Medical Services for Children Reauthorization Act of 2024. This week the House is also expected to take up the Senate amended FAA reauthorization bill.

On the Committee level, the House Energy & Commerce Committee has not officially posted notice yet, but the Subcommittee on Health is expected to mark up legislation to extend telehealth flexibilities put in place during the COVID-19 pandemic as well as legislation to address Medicaid access and program integrity that were recently part of a legislative hearing ([IHPP summary](#)). Though champions are pushing for permanent extension of the telehealth flexibilities, it has been generally accepted that the price tag is too high for a permanent solution. Last week the Ways and Means Committee passed a two-year extension ([IHPP summary](#)) that will cost roughly \$5 billion.

Hearings:

House Committee on Education and the Workforce: On Wednesday the Education and the Workforce Committee will hold a [hearing](#) to examine the policies and priorities of HHS. HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra will be testifying.

Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee: Also on Wednesday the HSGAC Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Spending Oversight will hold a [hearing](#) to examine the findings and recommendations of the Government Accountability Office (GAO) 2024 Report on Opportunities to Reduce Fragmentation, Overlap, and Duplication and Achieve Financial Benefits. Last year's report contained health care focused recommendations.

Senate Finance Committee: On Thursday the Senate Finance Committee will hold a [hearing](#) to examine rural health care, focusing on supporting lives and improving communities. This is likely to include access to women's health care as part of the focus.

Regulatory Update:

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is currently reviewing the following rules:

Medicare

- **Calendar Year (CY) Payment Updates:** The CY 2025 revisions to the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule [proposed rule](#), the CY 2025 Hospital Outpatient PPS Policy Changes and Payment Rates and Ambulatory Surgical Center Payment System Policy Changes and Payment Rates [proposed rule](#), the CY 2025 Changes to the End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Prospective Payment System and Quality Incentive Program [proposed rule](#) (June 2024), and the CY 2025 Home Health PPS Rate Update [proposed rule](#) (June 2024).

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 (February 2024).
- **Drug Rebate Program** – The [final rule](#) would establish requirements related to manufacturers' misclassification of covered outpatient drug products under the Medicaid Drug Rebate Program (MDRP). In addition, it finalizes beneficiary protections, as well as MDRP program integrity and administration changes (June 2024).

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 (was set for December 2023).
- **Health IT** – The [proposed rule](#) would advance interoperability through proposals for: standards adoption; public health IT certification; expanded uses of certified application programming interfaces (APIs), such as for electronic prior authorization, patient engagement, care management, and care coordination; and information sharing under the information blocking regulations (was set for November 2023).

This Week in Health Policy

Tue. (5/14)

- **1:00pm – HHS Meeting: Maternal Health** – The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) holds a meeting for the public announcement of the Task Force on Maternal Mental Health National Strategy to Improve Maternal Mental Health Care and the accompanying report to Congress. The Task Force on Maternal Mental Health is a subcommittee of the SAMHSA Advisory Committee on Women's Services. [Details](#).
- **2:00pm – BPC Discussion: Long-Term Care Reform** – The Bipartisan Policy Center (BPC) holds a discussion on bipartisan federal reforms to improve the nation's long-term services and support (LTSS), and an analysis of data from the AARP LTSS State Scorecards. HHS Director of LTSS Policy will be participating. [Details](#).

Wed. (5/15)

- **10:15am – Hearing: HHS Oversight** – The House Committee on Education and the Workforce holds a hearing to examine the policies and priorities of HHS. HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra will be testifying. [Details.](#)
- **10:00am – Markup: Biosecurity** – The House Committee on Oversight and Accountability holds a markup to consider a series of legislation, including the BIOSECURE Act ([H.R. 7085](#)), which would prohibit a federal agency from procuring any biotechnology equipment or service from a biotechnology company of concern. [Details.](#)
- **1:00pm – AHP Discussion: 2024 Voter Priorities in Health Care** – The Alliance for Health Policy holds a discussion on the latest polling data identifying key health policy concerns that will drive election coverage and campaign discourse. [Details.](#)
- **2:00pm – BPC Discussion: Child Welfare** – BPC holds a discussion on findings from the Child Welfare Initiative, highlighting perspectives of Black and Latino communities after BPC commissioned a national poll to look at the nation’s thoughts about and experiences with the U.S. child welfare system. [Details.](#)
- **2:45pm – Hearing: GAO’s Report on Opportunities to Reduce Fragmentation, Overlap, and Duplication** – The Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Spending Oversight holds a hearing to examine the findings and recommendations of the Government Accountability Office (GAO) 2024 Report on Opportunities to Reduce Fragmentation, Overlap, and Duplication and Achieve Financial Benefits. [Details.](#)
- **3:30pm – Hearing: Frontier Health Care for Veterans** – The Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee holds a hearing to examine frontier health care, focusing on ensuring veterans’ access no matter where they live. [Details.](#)

Thurs. (5/16)

- **8:00am – Axios Discussion: Youth Mental Health** – Axios holds a discussion on the root causes of the youth mental health crisis, the barriers to better care and examples of real world and youth-led attempts to expand options for those in need of support. Topics that will be explored include school-based mental health care options, targeted government action, multi-sector partnerships and pediatricians' expanding role. HHS Surgeon General Vivek Murthy will be participating. [Details.](#)
- **9:00am – Hearing: NIH Scientific Research Oversight** – The House Oversight and Accountability Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic holds a hearing to examine the National Institutes of Health’s (NIH) process for funding and overseeing scientific research as well as delve into the NIH’s relationship with EcoHealth Alliance. NIH Principal Deputy Director Lawrence Tabak will be testifying. [Details.](#)
- **10:00am – Hearing: Dental Care Affordability** – The Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee holds a hearing to examine the dental care crisis in America, focusing on making dental care more affordable and more available. [Details.](#)
- **10:00am – Hearing: Rural Health Care** – The Senate Finance Committee holds a hearing to examine rural health care, focusing on supporting lives and improving communities. [Details.](#)
- **10:00am – HITAC Meeting: Health IT Advisory Committee** – The Health Information Technology Advisory Committee (HITAC) holds a meeting to discuss program updates, including

recommendations to the National Coordinator on the topics of interoperability, privacy and security, patient access, and use of technologies that support public health. [Details.](#)

Additional Multi-Day Events

- **May 14-May 15 – NIST Meeting: Internet of Things Federal Working Group Report** – The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) holds a meeting of the Internet of Things (IoT) Advisory Board to finalize the Board’s report for the IoT Federal Working Group and the recommendations and findings from the report regarding several focus areas, including augmented logistics, public safety, and health care. [Details.](#)
- **May 15-May 16 – HRSA Meeting: Migrant Health** – The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) holds a meeting of the National Advisory Council on Migrant Health to discuss migratory and seasonal agricultural worker health. [Details.](#)
- **May 15-May 16 – EPA Meeting: Children’s Environmental Health**– The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) holds a meeting of the EPA Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee to advise the EPA on science, regulations and other issues relating to children's environmental health. [Details.](#)

Featured Analysis

- **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

Thurs. (5/9)

- **Sen. Cassidy (R-LA) [released](#)** a white paper on opportunities to improve the NIH. [Details.](#)

Weds. (5/8)

- **The House W&M committee [convened](#)** a markup of legislation to support rural health providers and access to telehealth. [Details.](#)
- **The Senate Budget Committee** convened a hearing to examine ways to alleviate administrative burdens in health care. Democrats used the hearing to criticize prior authorization and emphasize the need for standardization across different insurance companies. [Details.](#)
- **The Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA and Related Agencies** convened a [hearing](#) on the FY 2025 budget request for the FDA. [Details.](#)
- **Committee leaders** release competing frameworks for Farm Bill legislation. [Details.](#)

Tues. (5/7)

- **The House W&M Committee** released [legislation](#) aimed at temporarily extending certain pandemic-era flexibilities, including those related to telehealth and the Acute Hospital Care at Home initiative. [Details.](#)

Regulatory Lookback

Fri. (5/10)

- **CMS** issued [updates](#) to the Master List of Items Potentially Subject to Face-To-Face Encounter and Written Order Prior to Delivery and/or Prior Authorization Requirements. [Details.](#)
- **HHS OIG** released a [report](#) examining California's Medicaid eligibility procedures during the unwinding period following the end of the continuous enrollment condition due to the COVID-19 pandemic. [Details.](#)

Thurs. (5/9)

- **SAMHSA** has announced over \$50 million in behavioral health funding opportunities. [Details.](#)
- **The GAO** published a comprehensive [report](#) on the oversight of hospice care for Medicare beneficiaries, urging the CMS to fully implement statutory provisions and prioritize overdue surveys. [Details.](#)

Weds. (5/8)

- **CMMI** announced the [Increasing Organ Transplant Access \(IOTA\) Model](#). Comments are due July 16. [Details.](#)

Tues. (5/7)

- **The CDC** is [seeking nominations](#) for membership on the Advisory Committee to the Director. Nominations are due June 7. [Details.](#)

Mon. (5/6)

- **The Medicare Trustees** released their latest [report](#) on the status of the Hospital Insurance (HI) and Supplemental Medicare Insurance (SMI) trust funds. [Details.](#)
- **The CRS** released a [Legal Sidebar](#) analyzing the implications of the HHS finalization of a new rule under Section 1557 of the ACA. [Details.](#)
- **HRSA** recently announced [a suite of funding opportunities](#) aimed at advancing maternal and child health initiatives across the United States. [Details.](#)

Comment & Application Deadlines

- **May 20:** HHS OMH issued an [RFI](#) to solicit input for the development of a universal symbol informing people about the availability of language assistance services in health settings. [Details.](#)
- **May 27:** CMS released the FY 2025 IRF PPS [proposed rule](#). [Details.](#)
- **May 28:** CMS released the FY 2025 SNF PPS [proposed rule](#). [Details.](#)
- **May 28:** CMS released the FY 2025 Hospice payment rate update proposed rule. [Details.](#)
- **May 28:** CMS released the FY 2025 IPF PPS proposed rule. [Details.](#)
- **May 28:** ONC published the draft 2024-2030 Federal Health IT [Strategic Plan](#). [Details.](#)
- **May 29:** HRSA [announced](#) the opportunity to apply for base and matching funds under the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program. [Details.](#)
- **June 3:** CISA issued an [NPRM](#) outlining regulations concerning cyber incident reporting and ransom payment reporting, aiming to bolster the nation’s cybersecurity posture. [Details.](#)
- **June 6:** SFC Chair Wyden (D-OR) and Ranking Member Crapo (R-ID) unveiled a [draft legislative proposal](#) aimed at tackling the persistent issue of prescription drug shortages in the United States. [Details.](#)
- **June 7:** The CDC is [seeking nominations](#) for membership on the Advisory Committee to the Director. [Details.](#)
- **June 10:** CMS released the FY 2025 IPPS and LTCH PPS proposed rule. [Details.](#)
- **June 10:** HUD released a [proposed rule](#) entitled, “Reducing Barriers to HUD-Assisted Housing.” [Details.](#)
- **June 10:** HHS ONC [released](#) its Health Equity By Design (HEBD) white paper discussion draft for public comment. [Details.](#)
- **June 15:** HRSA [announced](#) the availability of funding under the Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant program. [Details.](#)
- **July 16:** CMMI announced the [Increasing Organ Transplant Access \(IOTA\) Model](#). [Details.](#)
- **June 17:** CMMI [announced](#) ([model website](#)) a new voluntary model to test how prospective payments and increased funding for primary care in accountable care organizations (ACOs) impact health outcomes, quality, and costs of care. [Details.](#)
- **June 18:** FNS announced the [SNAP Process and Technology Improvement Grants \(PTIG\) Program](#). [Details.](#)
- **June 21:** The CDC [announced](#) the 2024 Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) Lark Galloway-Gilliam for Advancing Health Equity Award Challenge. Applications are due June 21. [Details.](#)
- **June 24:** FNS announced the [SNAP Fraud Framework Implementation Grant \(FFIG\)](#). [Details.](#)
- **September 30:** The CDC is [seeking nominations](#) for membership on the Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee (HICPAC). [Details.](#)