

Impact Health Policy Weekly

Framing the Week

The House is on recess this week, while the Senate will come back into session this afternoon before taking a break on Wednesday for the Juneteenth federal holiday. They will come back into session on Thursday and Friday. The Senate floor schedule this week is mostly focused on nominations. On the Committee level Senate Finance Committee Chairman Ron Wyden (D-OR) is holding a press call today to unveil his maternal health care legislation, which is expected to be introduced this week.

Prior to recessing, the House was able to pass the NDAA bill on a mostly partisan basis after Republicans attached divisive amendments that will restrict abortion access, medical treatment for transgender troops and eliminate efforts to combat climate change. Progress was also made on fiscal year (FY) 2025 appropriations bills as the House Appropriations Committee has marked up 6 of the 12 bills. Reminiscent of last year, many of the House bills contain controversial provisions that have no chance of surviving the Senate. House Appropriations Committee Chairman Tom Cole (R-OK) intends to finish marking up the remaining 6 bills prior August recess.

With only four legislative weeks left before the August recess, and the first Presidential debate less than two weeks away, the House and Senate are both starting to move away from bipartisan legislative activity and will increasingly bring up more political messaging bills as we move towards the election. We will also see Republicans leadership starting to lay the groundwork for what they will do if Mr. Trump is successful in winning the White House, including repealing the Inflation Reduction Act and extending the tax cuts passed in the first Trump Administration that are set to expire in 2025.

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).
- **Medicare Shared Savings Program** – A [proposed rule](#) titled, “Mitigating the Impact of Anomalous Increases in Billing on Medicare Shared Savings Program Financial Calculations.”

The proposal is likely intended to address [concerns](#) about fraudulent billing for catheters. It was not included in the latest Unified Agenda.

Medicaid

- **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).
- **Tobacco Products** – The [final rule](#) would prohibit the sale of tobacco products to persons younger than 21 years of age (was set for April 2024).

This Week in Health Policy

Mon. (6/17)

- **11:30am – NIH Meeting: Engaging the Public as Partners in Clinical Research** – The National Institutes of Health (NIH) holds a meeting of the Office of the Director for an update from the Working Group on Engaging the Public as Partners in Clinical Research and to discuss the next steps regarding the current charge to the committee. [Details.](#)
- **12:00pm – KFF Discussion: Site-Neutral Payments** – KFF holds a discussion on the concept of site-neutral payments, including why it has become an issue for policymakers and private payers like insurers and employers, how Medicare payments currently work, how various proposals would change the law, and the potential impact of those changes. [Details.](#)
- **3:00pm – HITAC Meeting: Annual Report Workgroup** – The Health Information Technology Advisory Committee (HITAC) holds a meeting of the Annual Report Workgroup to discuss program updates. [Details.](#)
- **7:00pm – Hill Discussion: Federal Budget** – The Hill holds a discussion with House Budget Committee Chairman Jodey Arrington (R-TX) and Ranking Member Brendan Doyle (R-PA) on how Congress is working to refrain from record spending while balancing the federal budget. [Details.](#)

Tue. (6/18)

- **9:00am – R Street Institute Discussion: Cybersecurity Policy** – The R Street Institute holds a discussion with Anne Neuberger, Deputy White House National Security Adviser for Cyber and Emerging Technology on how policymakers and business leaders can work together to establish a more proactive and innovative cybersecurity ecosystem. [Details.](#)
- **10:00am – Hearing: COVID-19 Origins** – The Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee holds a hearing to examine origins of COVID-19, focusing on available evidence. [Details.](#)
- **1:00pm – Urban Institute Discussion: Equity-Oriented Affordable Housing** – The Urban Institute holds a discussion about equity-oriented affordable housing. The event will include a wide array of researchers, policymakers, advocates, and other stakeholders to explore housing policies that create meaningful impact on racial and health equity. Solomon Greene, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research, US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) will be participating. [Details.](#)

Thurs. (6/20)

- **3:00pm – U.S. News and World Report Discussion: Quality Reporting Dialogue for Best Hospitals Report** – U.S. News and World Report holds a discussion of its 11th annual Quality Reporting Dialogue on Best Hospitals. Members of the Best Hospitals project team will describe further planned modifications to the Best Hospitals methodologies. [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. (6/13)

- **MedPAC** released its [June 2024 Report to Congress.](#) [Details.](#)
- **The House E&C Health Subcommittee** convened a [hearing](#) with CMMI Director Liz Fowler to discuss the impact of CMMI. [Details.](#)
- **The House Budget Committee** convened a [hearing](#) to examine the solvency of Medicare and Social Security. [Details.](#)

Weds. (6/12)

- **Bipartisan Representatives and Senators** introduced the [Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act of 2024](#) to codify requirements for an electronic prior authorization by Medicare Advantage plans. [Details.](#)
- **The House E&C Committee** convened a [markup](#) of 13 bipartisan legislative proposals to strengthen the U.S. health care system. [Details.](#)

Tues. (6/11)

- **MACPAC** released its [June 2024 Report to Congress](#). [Details.](#)
- **Senate Agriculture Committee Republicans** released a [framework](#) for reauthorization of the Farm Bill. [Details.](#)

Regulatory Lookback

Thurs. (6/13)

- **CMS and ONC** issued a [final rule](#) to require Part D plans to implement required standards for electronic prescribing and adoption of health information technology standards. [Details.](#)
- **CMS Office of the Actuary** released [projections](#) of National Health Expenditures and health insurance enrollment for 2023-2032. [Details.](#)

Tues. (6/11)

- **The CFPB** issued a [proposed rule](#) aimed at eliminating medical bills from most credit reports. Comments are due August 12. [Details.](#)
- **HHS OMH** issued an [RFI](#) on how community health workers can enhance cultural competency in public health educational campaigns. Comments are due July 11. [Details.](#)
- **The GAO** is [seeking nominations](#) for the Physician-Focused Payment Model Technical Advisory Committee. Nominations are due July 10. [Details.](#)

Mon. (6/10)

- **CMS** released a [notice of funding opportunity](#) for the Expanding Access to Women's Health Grant. Applications are due August 7. [Details.](#)
- **HUD** has announced [\\$123 million in awards](#) to combat youth homelessness. [Details.](#)

Comment & Application Deadlines

- **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](#).
- **July 10:** The GAO is [seeking nominations](#) for the Physician-Focused Payment Model Technical Advisory Committee. [Details](#).
- **July 11:** HHS OMH issued an [RFI](#) on how community health workers can enhance cultural competency in public health educational campaigns. [Details](#).
- **July 31:** AHRQ issued an [RFI](#) on new strategies to advance interoperable, shareable, and reusable clinical decision support resources. [Details](#).
- **August 12:** The CFPB issued a [proposed rule](#) aimed at eliminating medical bills from most credit reports. [Details](#).
- **August 17:** CMS released a [notice of funding opportunity](#) for the Expanding Access to Women's Health Grant. [Details](#).
- **September 30:** The CDC is [seeking nominations](#) for membership on the Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee (HICPAC). [Details](#).