

Impact Health Policy Weekly

Framing the Week

The House comes back in session on Tuesday afternoon after last week's recess, while the Senate is on a two-week recess for the July 4th holiday. The House will primarily focus on fiscal year (FY) 2025 appropriations bills this week as the Department of Defense, State and Foreign Operations, and Homeland Security bills are all on deck for floor action in the latter half of the week. The Rules Committee will first need to sort through the nearly 800 proposed amendments to the three bills.

Meanwhile, on the Committee level, the Commerce-Justice-Science, Labor-HHS-Education, Transportation-HUD, Interior-Environment and Energy-Water bills will be marked up in Subcommittee this week. These are the final five 2025 bills to be marked up. The full Committee will bring them up the week after the July 4th recess. Reminiscent of last year, many of the House bills contain controversial provisions that have no chance of surviving the Senate, not to mention the Labor-HHS bill is roughly \$10 billion below last year's level.

Attention this week will also be on Presidential politics as the first of two debates between President Joe Biden and former President Donald Trump will occur on Thursday, much earlier than the typical Presidential debate schedule.

Hearings:

Senate Judiciary Committee: On Tuesday the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution will hold a [field hearing](#) in Phoenix, Arizona to examine the patchwork of abortion restrictions across America since the Supreme Court's Dobbs decision.

House Ways and Means Committee: On Wednesday the House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Health will hold a [hearing](#) to examine the challenges and opportunities associated with delivering better health outcomes and Medicare savings through value-based care.

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).
- **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. (6/24)

- **10:00am – CSIS Discussion: Biotech Innovation and Bayh-Dole** – The Center for Strategic and International Studies holds a discussion on how the Bayh-Dole Act promotes innovation in the biotech industry and fits into the United States’ broader economic security agenda. [Details.](#)
- **2:00pm – AEI Discussion: Financing Long-Term Care** – The American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research holds a discussion on the state of the private long-term care (LTC) insurance market and the importance of restoring Medicaid to its intended role of providing appropriate assistance to those in need while ensuring fiscal sustainability. [Details.](#)

Tue. (6/25)

- **8:30am – Hill Discussion: Drug Shortages** – The Hill holds a discussion with former Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Commissioner, Mark McClellan, and Rep. Larry Bucshon (R-IN) on the pharmaceutical supply chain and the collective goal of preventing drug shortages and, when they are unavoidable, mitigating their impact on patients. [Details.](#)
- **12:00pm – R Street Institute Discussion: Patent Policy Reform** – The R Street Institute holds a discussion on the current state of patent policy and its impact on innovation in the health care sector, the detrimental effects of patent gamesmanship, and policy solutions and best practices to foster a balanced patent system that incentivizes innovation while prioritizing patient needs. [Details.](#)

- **12:30pm – Field Hearing: Abortion Access** – The Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution holds a field hearing in Phoenix, Arizona to examine the patchwork of abortion restrictions across America since the Supreme Court’s Dobbs decision. [Details.](#)

Wed. (6/26)

- **10:00am – Hearing: Strengthening Child Welfare** – The House Ways and Means Committee holds a hearing on strengthening child welfare through reauthorization of Title IV-B, a program serving children and youth in foster care. [Details.](#)
- **12:00pm – A4H Congressional Briefing: Alternative Payment Models** – Accountable for Health (A4H) holds a briefing to discuss alternative payment models (APMs) and their value in improving patient care, driving savings in Medicare, and lowering healthcare costs. The briefing will include lessons learned and recommendations for expanding APM participation through physician payment policy. [Details.](#)
- **2:15pm – Hearing: VA’s Health Care Network** – The House Veterans’ Affairs (VA) Subcommittee on Health holds an oversight hearing to assess the structure of the VA’s health care network. [Details.](#)
- **3:00pm – Hearing: Improving Value-Based Care** – The House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Health holds a hearing to examine the challenges and opportunities associated with delivering better health outcomes and Medicare savings through value-based care. [Details.](#)

Thurs. (6/27)

- **8:30am – Hill Discussion: Medicare Drug Pricing** – The Hill holds a discussion on lessons learned from the first round of Medicare drug prices direct negotiation, and how can CMS improve the program in year two, as well as how Congress can address the unintended consequences of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). Reps. Marianne Miller-Meeks (R-IA) and Scott Peters (D-CA) will be participating. [Details.](#)
- **10:00am – Hearing: Racial Discrimination in U.S. Employment Practices** – The House Oversight and Accountability Committee holds a hearing titled “Ending Illegal Racial Discrimination and Protecting Men and Women in U.S. Employment Practices.” [Details.](#)
- **10:15am – Hearing: Employee Benefits Security Administration Priorities** – The House Education and the Workforce Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions holds a hearing to examine the policies and priorities of the Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA). [Details.](#)

Additional Multi-Day Events

- **June 25-June 26 – HRSA Meeting: Community Health Care Goals** – The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) holds a meeting of the National Advisory Council on the National Health Service Corps (NACNHSC) for the identification of NHSC priorities for future program issues and concerns, updates from clinician workforce experts, and education and practice improvement in the training development of primary care clinicians. [Details.](#)
- **June 25-June 26 – CDC Meeting: Tuberculosis Elimination** – The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) holds a meeting of the Advisory Council for the Elimination of Tuberculosis to discuss program updates and the National Tuberculosis Coalition of America

guidelines for respiratory isolation and restrictions to reduce transmission of pulmonary tuberculosis in community settings. [Details.](#)

- **June 26-June 27 – HRSA Meeting: Infant/Maternal Mortality** – HRSA holds a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Infant and Maternal Mortality (ACIMM) for a discussion on the Healthy Start program; maternal and infant mental health; and possible recommendations to achieve optimal maternal health and overall birth outcomes for underserved populations, including Black/African-American families. [Details.](#)
- **June 26-June 28 – CDC Meeting: Immunization Practices** – The CDC holds a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) to discuss influenza vaccines, chikungunya vaccine, COVID-19 vaccines, pneumococcal vaccines, meningococcal vaccines, Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccines, and Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) vaccines for adults, among others. [Details.](#)

Featured Analysis

- ***NEW* Impact Mental Health Legislative Update** – In the Policy Hub Insight Bank [here.](#)
- ***NEW* Impact Roundup of Behavioral Health Administrative 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 Artificial Intelligence Policy Round Up** – In the Policy Hub Insight Bank [here.](#)

Regulatory Lookback

Fri. (6/21)

- **CMS** is seeking [nominations](#) for a Technical Expert Panel (TEP) to support the expansion of the CMS' Maternal Morbidity Structural Measure ([MMSM](#)) and the CMS' [Birthing-Friendly Hospital Designation](#). Nominations are due July 12. [Details.](#)

Thurs. (6/20)

- **The CBO** released [updated projections](#) for federal subsidies for health insurance coverage from 2024 to 2034. [Details.](#)
- **The GAO** released its [June 2024 report](#) in their [High-Risk Series](#) detailing pressing cybersecurity challenges confronting the United States. [Details.](#)

Tues. (6/18)

- **The USPSTF** released a [final recommendation statement](#) on interventions for high body mass index in children and adolescents. [Details.](#)

Mon. (6/17)

- **The Tri-Departments** announced a [120-day extension](#) for filing disputes under the No Surprises Act IDR process for parties affected by the February cyberattack on Change Healthcare. [Details.](#)
- **CMS** announced that the Accelerated and Advance Payment (AAP) Program for the Change Healthcare/Optum Payment Disruption (CHOPD) [will end](#) on July 12, 2024. [Details.](#)

Comment & Application Deadlines

- **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 12:** CMS is seeking [nominations](#) for a Technical Expert Panel (TEP) to support the expansion of the CMS' Maternal Morbidity Structural Measure ([MMSM](#)) and the CMS' [Birthing-Friendly Hospital Designation](#). [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.](#)