

Impact Health Policy Weekly

Framing the Week

The House and Senate are both in recess in order to focus on campaigning for the upcoming election, leaving a very quiet Capitol Hill. There are just three more weeks left until the November 5 election, and there is still no clear front winner in the race for President. Vice President Harris will sit down with radio host Charlemagne the God for a town hall event in Michigan today and has agreed to an interview with conservative Fox News chief political anchor Bret Baier on Wednesday. Former President Donald Trump will be interviewed in Chicago and then will head to Atlanta for a Fox News town hall with an all-female audience. Today's events follow an interesting town hall yesterday in which he spent 40 minutes swaying to music as paramedics attended to two medical emergencies in the audience.

The run for control of the House and Senate is equally up in the air as leaders of both parties are travelling across the country in order to help members in tight elections. As a reminder, our election preview where we try to make sense of the political uncertainty by comparing the policy positions of each Presidential candidate on key health and healthcare social issues, forecasting the health policy priorities of the 119th Congress, and identifying potentially new leaders of key Congressional Committees can be found [here](#). If you have had enough of the traditional election press coverage, may we recommend a fun [Washington Post story](#) on the fast food choices of both parties.

Regulatory Update

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

Medicare

- **Physician Payment** – The [final rule](#) would make changes to the Medicare physician fee schedule for calendar year 2025 (November 2024).
- **Outpatient Payment** – The [final rule](#) would make changes to the Medicare hospital outpatient prospective payment system for calendar year 2025 (November 2024).
- **Home Health** – The [final rule](#) would make changes to the Medicare home health prospective payment system for calendar year 2025 (November 2024).
- **ESRD** – The [final rule](#) would make changes to the Medicare End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) payment system for calendar year 2025 (November 2024).
- **Medicare Advantage** – The [proposed rule](#) would make policy and technical changes to the Medicare Advantage, Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit, and Medicare Cost Plan Programs, and PACE for contract year 2026 (September 2024).

Private Insurance

- **Preventive Services** – The [proposed rule](#) is titled, “Enhancing Coverage of Preventive Services under the Affordable Care Act.” It was not included in the latest Unified Agenda.

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).
- **Retail Pharmacy Standards** – The [final rule](#) would require pharmacies and vendors to modify the currently adopted National Council for Prescription Drug Programs (NCPDP) standards to the Telecommunications Standard Implementation Guide Version F6 (F6); Batch Standard Implementation Guide version 15; and Batch Standard Subrogation Implementation Guide version 10 (was set for February 2024).
- **Organ Transplants** – The [final rule](#) would establish a new mandatory Medicare payment model, the Increasing Organ Transplant Access Model (IOTA Model), that would test whether performance-based incentive payments paid to or owed by participating kidney transplant hospitals increase access to kidney transplants for patients with end-stage renal disease (ESRD) while preserving or enhancing the quality of care and reducing Medicare expenditures.

This Week in Health Policy

Mon. (10/14)

- **Holiday: Indigenous People’s Day**

Tue. (10/15)

- **1:00pm – ASTP Meeting: Federal Health IT Strategic Plan** – The Assistant Secretary for Technology Policy/Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ASTP) holds a meeting to discuss the [2024-2030 Federal Health IT Strategic Plan](#). [Details](#).

Wed. (10/16)

- **10:00am – FDA Meeting: Rare Disease Innovation Hub** – The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) holds a meeting to discuss the establishment of a Rare Disease Innovation Hub, which will enhance collaboration and cooperation across the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (CBER) and the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER), as well as other centers and offices across FDA, to advance rare disease therapies. [Details](#).
- **1:00pm – U.S. News Discussion: Childhood Concussions** – U.S. News and World Report holds a discussion on promising developments as well as ways to further educate families, caregivers and the wider community to mitigate the impact of childhood concussions. [Details](#).
- **1:00pm – BPC Discussion: Homelessness** – The Bipartisan Policy Center (BPC) holds a webinar to discuss local innovations and showcase how federal resources can help communities develop and implement effective strategies to combat homelessness. [Details](#).
- **2:30pm – Department of Commerce Meeting: AI in Biopharmaceuticals** – The International Trade Administration (ITA) of the Department of Commerce announces a roundtable discussion

with industry representatives and U.S. government officials on strategies to increase U.S. industry competitiveness and support adoption of artificial intelligence (AI) in the U.S. biopharmaceutical industry and the adoption of AI in drug discovery and development, biopharmaceutical manufacturing, clinical trial design, and supply chain management. [Details.](#)

Thurs. (10/17)

- **9:30am – 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.](#)
- **12:00pm – Urban Institute Discussion: Housing** – Urban Institute holds a discussion on "Sustainable Homeownership and Wealth Preservation for Communities of Color." Panelist will present new research findings and participate in evidence-based discussions about loss mitigation, home repair and preservation, and climate risk. [Details.](#)

Fri. (10/18)

- **2:00pm – Brookings Discussion: Local Climate Resilience** – The Brookings Institution holds a discussion on how technological advancements could bolster local climate resilience and reflecting on the state of climate resilience for disadvantaged communities and the potential pathways for climate services to enable more equitable, and locally led climate action. [Details.](#)

Additional Multi-Day Events

- **Oct 16-Oct 17 – HRSA Meeting: Infant and Maternal Mortality** – The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) holds a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Infant and Maternal Mortality (ACIMM) to discuss workgroup topics of rural health care access, social drivers of health, and women's health before/between pregnancies; and discussion of possible recommendations to achieve optimal maternal health and overall birth outcomes for underserved populations. [Details.](#)
- **Oct 16-Oct 17 – CDC Meeting: Community Preventive Services** – The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) holds a meeting of the Community Preventive Services Task Force (CPSTF) to deliberate on systematic reviews of literature. Topics proposed for the October 2024 meeting include substance use, injury prevention, and social determinants of health. [Details.](#)
- **Oct 17-Oct 18 – Census Bureau Meeting: Planning/Implementation of the 2030 Census** – The Census Bureau at the Department of Commerce holds a meeting of the 2030 Census Advisory Committee to provide insight, perspectives, and expertise through recommendations on planning and implementation of the 2030 Census. [Details.](#)

Featured Analysis

- ***NEW* Insights for Impact: the 340B Drug Pricing Program**– In the Policy Hub Insight Bank [here.](#)
- **Impact 2024 Election Outlook and 2025 Congressional Preview** – In the Policy Hub Insight Bank [here.](#)
- **Impact Preview of Lame Duck Health Package** – In the Policy Hub Insight Bank [here.](#)

- **Impact Chart of PBM Legislation** – In the Policy Hub Insight Bank [here](#).
- **Impact Regulatory Outlook: Spring 2024 Unified Agenda** – In the Policy Hub Insight Bank [here](#).
- **Making Sense of the New Landscape for Health Policy After Recent Supreme Court Decisions** – In the Policy Hub Insight Bank [here](#).

Congressional Lookback

Fri. (10/11)

- **MedPAC** held day two of its [October 2024 public meeting](#) and held sessions on home health. All Impact Health session summaries are available in Policy Hub [here](#).

Thurs. (10/10)

- **MedPAC** held day one of its [October 2024 public meeting](#) and held sessions on nursing homes, supplemental benefits, and findings from focus groups. All Impact Health session summaries are available in Policy Hub [here](#).

Regulatory Lookback

Thurs. (10/10)

- **CMS** announced the [2025 Medicare Advantage \(MA\) and Part D Star Ratings](#). [Details](#).
- **The FTC** has issued a [final rule](#) to amend the Premerger Notification Rules under the Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvement Act (HSR Act). [Details](#).

Weds. (10/9)

- **CMMI** released an [RFI and a sample list](#) of prescription drugs that the agency intends to include in its \$2 Drug List Model. Comments are due December 9. [Details](#).

Tues. (10/8)

- **The Biden Administration** released funding awards and new technical assistance related to behavioral health. [Details](#).
- **HHS** announced an [Interim Final Rule](#) (IFR) to implement the 2024 revisions to the Uniform Administrative Requirements for Federal Financial Assistance (Uniform Guidance) under 2 CFR Part 200. Comments due November 1. [Details](#).

Mon. (10/7)

- **CMS** is [seeking nominations](#) for a TEP to assist in the development and maintenance of electronic clinical quality measures (eCQMs). Nominations are due October 29. [Details](#).

- CMS is inviting [public comments](#) on electronic clinical quality measures (eCQMs). Comments are due October 15. [Details](#).

Comment & Application Deadlines

- **October 7:** CMS issued an [RFI](#) seeking information on AI technologies that can improve health care outcomes and service delivery. [Details](#).
- **December 6:** The HHS Office of Infectious Disease and HIV/AIDS Policy (OIDP) is seeking input through an [RFI](#) to help shape the 2026–2030 National HIV/AIDS Strategy. [Details](#).
- **October 15:** CMS is inviting [public comments](#) on electronic clinical quality measures (eCQMs). [Details](#).
- **October 29:** CMS is [seeking nominations](#) for a TEP to assist in the development and maintenance of electronic clinical quality measures (eCQMs). [Details](#).
- **October 29:** CMS seeks [comments](#) on its implementation of mental health parity in Medicaid and CHIP managed care plans.
- **November 1:** HHS announced an [Interim Final Rule](#) (IFR) to implement the 2024 revisions to the Uniform Administrative Requirements for Federal Financial Assistance (Uniform Guidance) under 2 CFR Part 200. [Details](#).
- **November 12:** CMS released the HHS Notice of Benefit and Payment Parameters for [2026 proposed rule](#). [Details](#).
- **December 9:** CMMI released an [RFI and a sample list](#) of prescription drugs that the agency intends to include in its \$2 Drug List Model. [Details](#).
- **February 25:** CMMI released an [RFA](#) for the Cell and Gene Therapy Access Model. [Details](#).
- **February 25:** CMMI released a [NOFO](#) to apply for Cooperative Agreement funding to support states' participation in the Cell and Gene Therapy (CGT) Access Model. [Details](#).