

Impact Health Policy Weekly

Framing the Week

Ahead of recess next week, Republicans are pushing to send the budget reconciliation bill funding ICE and CBP to President Trump's desk for signature by his June 1 deadline. They will first need to address Byrd Rule issues concerning ballroom funding. The bill is scheduled to be marked up by the [Senate Budget Committee](#) on Wednesday, with a vote-a-rama tentatively planned for Thursday. This will be another opportunity for [Senate Democrats](#) to force votes on amendments aimed at lowering costs.

The Medicare Physician Fee Schedule will be the new focus for the [House Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee](#), after completing a series of affordability hearings. On Wednesday, members will examine physician payment issues and reforms, a topic that has drawn bipartisan interest. Reps. John Joyce (R-PA), Kim Schrier (D-WA), and Greg Murphy (R-NC) plan to release a comprehensive MACRA reform bill in early summer. There is also bipartisan interest in the Senate. [Senate Finance Committee](#) leaders released a white paper outlining policy concepts to reform Medicare physician payment in 2024, but have not followed up with legislation.

CMS' updated annual strategic priorities will be released at an event hosted by the [Bipartisan Policy Center](#) on Wednesday. The [2025 strategy](#) centered around making America health again and protecting taxpayers through a three-pronged approach: promote evidence-based prevention, empower people to achieve their health goals, and drive choice and competition.

The first meeting of the [Healthcare Advisory Committee](#) is later today. It will focus on introducing Committee members – most of whom come from the private sector – outlining the vision of the Committee, and establishing Committee bylaws. **Dr. Robert Bessler**, CEO of Honest Health, a value-based care company, will chair the committee, which is tasked with providing recommendations to the HHS Secretary and CMS Administrator. Priority issues include chronic disease, administrative burden, claims processing, quality improvement, and Medicare Advantage sustainability.

Other hearings on Thursday include a [Senate Appropriations Labor, HHS, Education Subcommittee](#) hearing with the NIH Director, Dr. Dr. Jay Bhattacharya, and a [Senate HELP Committee](#) hearing to examine gender transition procedures on minors.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) [issued](#) a [proposed rule](#) implementing changes directed under the Executive Order titled “Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government.” The rule proposes to remove references to “gender” and “gender identity” from HUD regulations, or remove and replace it with “sex,” as defined by the Executive Order. Through these revisions, the Administration desires to ensure equal access to qualifying facilities would be provided in accordance with the sex of an individual based on his or her immutable biological classification as either male or female rather than the concept of gender identity. The proposal also enable grant recipients, operators, and other providers under HUD programs that permit single-sex or sex-specific facilities (such as temporary, emergency shelters or other facilities that are permitted to have shared sleeping quarters or bathrooms) the ability to require reasonable

assurances and evidence to confirm the sex of an individual seeking service. **Comments are due June 29, 2026.**

Regulatory Update

CMS released the 2027 Notice of Benefit and Payment Parameters [final rule](#) on Friday. Our summary will be released later today.

Recently Arrived at OMB

- **Medicare.** [Proposed Rule](#): CY 2027 Home Health Prospective Payment System Rate Update and Home Infusion Therapy Services Payment Update
- **Medicaid.** [Proposed Rule](#): Strengthening the Integrity of Medicaid and CHIP Managed Care, Financing, and Access to Care
- **Essential Health Benefits.** [Notice](#): Request for Information: Comprehensive Review of the Essential Health Benefits Framework and Typical Employer Standard
- **Pharmaceuticals.** [Notice](#): Oncology Pharmaceuticals: Streamlined Nonclinical Safety Studies for Biologics and Conjugated Products
- **ERISA.** [Proposed Rule](#): Default Electronic Disclosures by Group Health Plans Under ERISA
- **WIC.** [Final Rule](#): Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC): WIC Online Ordering and Transactions and Food Delivery Revisions to Meet the Needs of a Modern, Data-Driven Program

Pending OMB Review

- **Coverage and Payment:**
 - **Medicaid:**
 - **State Directed Payments.** [Proposed Rule](#): Medicaid Managed Care State Directed Payments and Medicaid Fee-For-Service Targeted Medicaid Practitioner Payments
 - **Medicaid Tax Waivers.** [Proposed Rule](#): Amending the Indirect Hold Harmless Threshold of Health Care-Related Taxes
 - **Work Requirements.** [Interim Final Rule](#): Establishing State Community Engagement Requirements for Certain Individuals Under Section 1902(xx) of the Social Security Act
 - **Medicare.** Proposed Rules: CY 2027 policy changes and payment rates for [hospital outpatient departments](#), [physicians](#), and [ESRD facilities](#)
 - **Marketplace.**
 - [Final Rule](#): 2027 Notice of Benefit and Payment Parameters
 - [Proposed Rule](#): Exchange Pre-Enrollment Eligibility Verification
 - **No Surprises Act.** [Final Rule](#): Independent Dispute Resolution Operations
 - **Organ Transplant.** [Final Rule](#): Alternative Payment Model Updates and the Increasing Organ Transplant Access
- **Drug Price Negotiation.** [Proposed Rule](#): Medicare Drug Price Negotiation Program
- **Accrediting Organizations.** [Final Rule](#): Strengthening Oversight of Accrediting Organizations (AO), Burden Reduction, and Related Provisions

- **Nutrition**
 - **Work Requirements.** [Proposed Rule](#): Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: Modification to Work Requirements for Able-Bodied Adults
 - **Categorical Eligibility.** [Proposed Rule](#): Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: Reforming Categorical Eligibility
 - **Cost Sharing.** [Proposed Rule](#): Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: Changes in Federal-State Administrative Cost Sharing
- **Immigration.** [Interim Final Rule](#): Unaccompanied Children Program Foundational Rule; Update to Include Proof of Identity and Income Verification Standards
- **Medication-Assisted Treatment.** [Final Rule](#): Implementation of the SUPPORT Act: Dispensing and Administering Controlled Substances for Medication-Assisted Treatment
- **HIPAA.** [Final Rule](#): HIPAA Privacy Rule: Changes to Support Coordinated Care and Individual Engagement and Reduce Regulatory Burdens
- **Discrimination.** [Final Rule](#): Rescinding Portions of Department of Health and Human Services Title VI Regulations to Conform More Closely with the Statutory Text and to Implement Executive Order 14281

[This Week in Health Policy](#)

An overview of upcoming events is included below. Events highlighted in **orange** are those that we will be covering in detail:

Mon. (5/18)

- **2:00pm – HAC Meeting: Health Care System Financing and Delivery** – The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) holds the first public meeting of the Healthcare Advisory Committee (HAC), which will introduce committee members, establish the committee's vision and bylaws, and begin discussions on policy recommendations to improve health care financing and delivery across Medicare, Medicaid, CHIP, and the Marketplace, including chronic disease management, quality and accountability, real-time data use, care for vulnerable populations, and Medicare Advantage sustainability. [Details.](#)

Tue. (5/19)

- **8:00am – Hill Discussion: Psychedelic Treatments** – The Hill holds a health policy forum convening lawmakers, clinical researchers, and advocates to explore access to psychedelic treatments for addressing the mental health crisis, including what the regulatory landscape requires and what actions Congress can take to ensure that patients are not left behind. Rep.

Jack Bergman (R-MI) and Dr. Michael Davis, Deputy Center Director for the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will participate. [Details.](#)

- **10:00am – Hearing: President’s DOL Budget Request for FY 2027** – The Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies holds a hearing to examine the President’s proposed budget request for fiscal year (FY) 2027 for the Department of Labor (DOL) with DOL Acting Secretary Keith Sonderling. [Details.](#)
- **1:30pm – CMS Meeting: Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Option under HR1** – The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) holds a listening session to gather stakeholder feedback on the new Medicaid Section 1915(c)(11) home- and community-based services (HCBS) waiver option established under HR1, with discussions focused on implementation considerations, access to HCBS, cost efficiency, participant experience, program integrity, and opportunities to strengthen integration and quality across Medicaid programs. [Details.](#)

Wed. (5/20)

- **9:00am – BPC Discussion: CMS Strategic Priorities** – The Bipartisan Policy Center (BPC) holds a discussion with CMS Administrator Dr. Mehmet Oz and Deputy Administrator and Chief of Staff Stephanie Carlton on the agency’s updated annual strategic priorities, which will be released that same day. [Details.](#)
- **9:00am – Punchbowl Discussion: Alzheimer’s Screening and Prevention** – Punchbowl News holds a discussion with Reps. Vern Buchanan (R-FL) and Paul Tonko (D-NY) on the importance of early and accurate dementia diagnosis and their work on the Alzheimer’s Screening and Prevention (ASAP) Act ([H.R.6130](#)). [Details.](#)
- **10:00am – Hearing: HR1 Tax Cut Impacts** – The House Ways and Means Tax Subcommittee holds a hearing to examine the tax impacts from HR1. [Details.](#)
- **10:15am – Hearing: Politics, Unions, and Antisemitism in Health Care** – The House Education and Workforce Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions holds a hearing titled “Bad Medicine: Politics, Unions, and Antisemitism in Health Care.” [Details.](#)
- **1:00pm – U.S. News Discussion: Best Hospitals** – U.S. News and World Report hold a discussion on the methodology for the upcoming edition of Best Hospitals, to be released publicly on Aug. 4, 2026. [Details.](#)
- **2:00pm – Hearing: Medicare Payment Reform** – The House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health holds a hearing to examine challenges with the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule and implementation of the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA), with discussions focused on physician payment instability, regulatory burdens, payment reform opportunities, and protecting Medicare beneficiaries’ access to care. [Details.](#)
- **3:00pm – HITAC Meeting: Health IT Infrastructure** – The Health Information Technology Advisory Committee (HITAC) holds a meeting of the Annual Report Workgroup 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.](#)

- **4:00pm – Hearing: President’s VA Budget Request for FY 2027** – The Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee holds a hearing to examine the President’s proposed budget request for fiscal year (FY) 2027 for the Department of Veterans Affairs. [Details.](#)
- **4:00pm – Hill Discussion: Clinical Trial Modernization** – The Hill and Eli Lilly hold a discussion on how federal regulations and legislation can be modernized to eliminate regulatory and financial barriers to clinical research. Reps. Raul Ruiz (D-CA) and Erin Houchin (R-IN) and the NIH Acting Director for the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities Monica Webb Hooper will be participating. [Details.](#)

Thurs. (5/21)

- **10:00am – Hearing: President’s NIH Budget Request for FY 2027** – The Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies holds a hearing to examine the President’s proposed budget request for fiscal year (FY) 2027 for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) with NIH Director Dr. Jay Bhattacharya. [Details.](#)
- **10:00am – Hearing: Gender Affirming Care** – The Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee holds a hearing to examine gender transition procedures on minors. [Details.](#)
- **1:00pm – Paragon Discussion: Hospital Costs** – Paragon holds a discussion on the drivers of rising hospital costs in the United States, focusing on how government policies may contribute to hospital consolidation, reduced competition, and higher prices, as well as potential reforms such as site-neutral payment, price transparency, and changes to hospital support programs. [Details.](#)

Featured Analysis

- **Reproductive Health Roundup** – In Policy Hub [here.](#)
- **FDA Policy Roundup** – In Policy Hub [here.](#)
- **Behavioral Health Roundup** – In Policy Hub [here.](#)
- **Innovation Center Model Portfolio Overview** – In Policy Hub [here.](#)

Congressional Lookback

Fri. (5/15)

- **Chair of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee Bill Cassidy (R-LA)** [launched an investigation](#) into federally funded health centers that provide gender-transition-related medical care to minors, ahead of a committee hearing [scheduled](#) for next week. [Details.](#)

Thurs. (5/14)

- **The House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health** advanced a bipartisan package of 10 health care and public health bills to the full committee during a [markup](#) focused largely on reauthorizations, FDA modernization, and targeted Medicare reforms. [Details.](#)

Regulatory Lookback

Fri. (5/15)

- **The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of the Inspector General (OIG)** [released](#) an audit examining Medicare documentation, coverage, and billing requirements for inpatient rehabilitation facilities. [Details.](#)
- **HHS** [issued](#) a new delegation of authority formally expanding the role of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) in overseeing and administering the work of the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force. [Details.](#)
- **The Supreme Court** issued an [order](#) that blocked a federal appeals court ruling from the Fifth Circuit that would have restricted the mailing of mifepristone. [Details.](#)

Wed. (5/13)

- **The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)** [announced](#) an immediate, nationwide six-month moratoria on the enrollment of new [hospice](#) and [home health agencies](#) (HHAs) in Medicare. [Details.](#)

Tues. (5/12)

- **The White House** released a new website for new and expecting mothers: [moms.gov](#). [Details.](#)

Mon. (5/11)

- **The Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Treasury** (Departments) announced a [proposed rule](#) to allow employers to provide standalone fertility benefits. [Details.](#)

Litigation Highlights

- **Supreme Court maintains access to Mifepristone, for now:** In [Louisiana v. FDA](#), on May 14th the Supreme Court [granted a stay](#) blocking a Fifth Circuit ruling that would have barred mailing mifepristone. The order, issued shortly after a prior [administrative stay](#) expired, preserves the existing regulatory status quo while litigation continues. As a result, mifepristone can continue to be sent by mail for now. The case will proceed in the lower courts, with further appeals possible and the dispute potentially returning to the Supreme Court for additional review of the underlying legal questions.
- **Fallout from the Supreme Court's [Louisiana v. Callais](#) redistricting decision continues:** The high court's [Louisiana v. Callais](#) decision substantially weakened Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, making it vastly more difficult to challenge racially discriminatory district maps. As the decision has ripple effects across the nation where state legislatures are considering new maps, on Friday evening the Supreme Court [denied](#) a request from Virginia Democrats and the state's

attorney general to reinstate Virginia's new congressional map, which was drawn by Democrats and approved by Virginia voters.

For additional information regarding legal developments, please see our [litigation tracker](#).

Comment & Application Deadlines

- **May 17:** CMMI is [accepting applications](#) for the Long-term Enhanced ACO Design (LEAD) Model ([Impact summary](#)). [Details](#).
- **May 23:** The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) issued a formal request for nominations to fill upcoming vacancies on the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force. [Details](#).
- **May 26:** The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and the Department of Justice (DOJ) [launched](#) a joint public inquiry regarding the effectiveness of the Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvements Act's (HSR Act) premerger reporting requirements. [Details](#).
- **May 30:** The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued a request for information (RFI) on the use of digital health technologies (DHTs) in clinical investigations for drugs and biological products, seeking stakeholder feedback on opportunities and challenges related to the use of these tools in product development and regulatory review. [Details](#).
- **June 1:** CMS released the fiscal year (FY) 2027 inpatient rehabilitation facility (IRF) PPS proposed rule. [Details](#).
- **June 1:** CMS released the FY 2027 inpatient psychiatric facility (IPF) PPS [proposed rule](#). [Details](#).
- **June 1:** CMS released the FY 2026 skilled nursing facility (SNF) prospective payment system (PPS) proposed rule. [Details](#).
- **June 5:** CMS released the FY 2027 hospice payment rate update proposed rule. [Details](#).
- **June 3:** CMMI released a [NOFO](#) for the second cohort of the Innovation in Behavioral Health Model. [Details](#).
- CMS released the FY 2027 inpatient prospective payment system (IPPS) and long-term care hospital prospective payment system (LTCH PPS). [Details](#).
- **June 15:** CMS released a [proposed rule](#) to advance interoperability and improve prior authorization for prescription drugs. [Details](#).
- **June 25:** The Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H) announced the Intelligent Generator of Research (IGoR) initiative to modernize how biomedical research is conducted by addressing persistent inefficiencies in speed, coordination, and reproducibility. [Details](#).
- **June 29:** The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued a notice proposing to exclude three widely used GLP-1 therapies – semaglutide, tirzepatide, and liraglutide – from the 503B Bulks List. [Details](#).
- **June 29:** The Housing and Urban Development Department (HUD) issued a proposed rule to replace references to “gender” and “gender identity” with “sex” in program language. [Details](#).
- **June 30:** FDA issued a Request for Information (RFI) seeking input on how obesity affects drug pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics during development. [Details](#).
- **July 10:** The Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Treasury announced a proposed rule to allow employers to provide standalone fertility benefits. [Details](#).
- **July 31:** The ACL announced the [launch of Phase 1](#) of the ACL Caregiver AI Prize Competition. [Details](#).