

HLB Weekly Newsletter

[View this email in your browser](#)**EDITION:** April 19, 2017

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS & PUBLIC POLICY

Your weekly dose of health care policy

CONGRESSIONAL

FDA User Fee Legislative Draft Released

Last Friday, bipartisan leadership from the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) and House Energy and Commerce Committees released [The Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\) Reauthorization Act of 2017](#), a [draft bill](#) to renew FDA user fee agreements that currently expire September 30. The legislation would update the prescription drug user fee amendments (PDUFA), medical device user fee amendments (MDUFA), generic drug user fee amendments (GDUFA), and biosimilar user fee amendments (BsUFA) from 2012. Currently, the draft is limited to the agreements between FDA and industry stakeholders that was negotiated at

UPCOMING HEALTH CARE ACTIVITIES

The House and Senate remain in their district work period. The Senate returns April 24th and House returns April 25th.

Senate HELP Committee

4/26 at 9:30am: Full Committee Hearing on [S. 652, H.R. 309, S. _____, Protecting Patient Access to Emergency Medications Act of 2017, S. 849, and the Nomination of Scott Gottlieb to serve as the Commissioner of Food and Drug.](#)

the end of last year in an effort to pass in a bipartisan way prior to the deadline. The Committees will continue to negotiate any additional changes to the legislation that was discussed in hearings held last month. Committee Leaders are aiming to pass this legislation over the summer.

ADMINISTRATIVE

CMS Releases IPPS and LTCH Proposed Rule

Last Friday, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released its [FY 2018 Medicare Hospital Inpatient Prospective Payment System \(IPPS\) and Long Term Acute Care Hospital \(LTCH\) Prospective Payment System Proposed Rule, and Request for Information](#). The [proposed rule](#) includes a 2.9 percent increase in payments for hospitals and a 3.75 percent increase for long-term care hospitals for FY 2018. CMS has also asked for feedback on policy changes to increase transparency, flexibility and innovation. The proposal delays the 25 percent rule for LTCHs and reduces the meaningful use reporting period to 90 days for 2018. Comments will be accepted on the proposed rule through June 13, 2017.

CMS Publishes Final Market Stabilization Rule

Last Thursday, CMS published the [final rule](#) for policies related to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act Market Stabilization. The [final rule](#) includes changes to the annual open enrollment period, promoting continuous coverage, and providing flexibility to insurers to remain in the insurance exchanges. These changes are effective June 19, 2017.

CMS Announces Request for Applications for Rural Community Hospital Demonstration

On Monday, CMS announced a Request for Applications for the continuation of its Rural Community Hospital Demonstration Program. Hospitals in rural areas with fewer

WEEKLY FUN FACT

Did you know that anyone can become a Supreme Court justice? In fact, there are no requirements given in the Constitution for becoming a Supreme Court justice. You don't even have to be born in the United States.

As of April 2017, there have been 113 justices with six serving on the court despite being born outside the United States. Additional information can be found [here](#).

than 51 acute care inpatient beds are eligible to apply to test cost based reimbursement for small rural hospitals that are too large to be Critical Access Hospitals. This program was recently extended in the 21st Century Cures legislation passed last year. Applications are due May 17, 2017 with the intention of announcing new programs in June.

HOOPER, LUNDY & BOOKMAN, P.C.

Government Relations and Public Policy

401 9th Street NW, Suite 550 Washington, DC 20004 | Telephone 202.580.7700

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