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GOVERNMENT RELATIONS & PUBLIC POLICY

Your weekly dose of health care policy

CONGRESSIONAL

House Committee Passes FDA User Fee Legislation

Yesterday, the House Energy and Commerce Committee unanimously passed the [FDA Reauthorization Act](#) (H.R.2430). This legislation updates the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) user fee agreements related to drugs and devices, and makes changes to FDA approvals and priorities. [Amendments](#) were added during the markup related to medical devices, medical imaging, and a sense of Congress encouraging the administration to take action to lower drug costs. The House continues to work on further amendments related to pediatric drug approvals to add to the bill as it goes to the floor. Simultaneously, the full Senate also must act to

MACRA HIGHLIGHTS

CMS announced the results of its predictive Qualifying APM Participant (QP) [status](#) for 2017 Advanced Alternative Payment Models (APMs) on Friday. By looking at historical Part B claims data, CMS predicts that nearly 100% of eligible clinicians in Advanced APMs with data currently available will be QPs in performance year 2017. These individuals will be exempt from the Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) and receive a 5%

pass the legislation by the end of July in order to prevent layoffs at the FDA.

During the markup, the Committee also passed the [Sickle Cell Disease Research, Surveillance, Prevention, and Treatment Act](#) (H.R. 2410) and the [Congenital Heart Futures Reauthorization Act](#) (H.R. 1222).

ADMINISTRATION

CMS Proposed Revisions to LTC Arbitration Agreements

On Monday, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released a [proposed rule](#) addressing [Revision Requirements](#) for Long-Term Care Facilities' Arbitration Agreements. The proposal seeks to increase transparency by removing the prohibition on pre-dispute binding arbitration agreements and updating requirements to be in plain language to be easily understood. CMS will accept comments on the proposal through August 7, 2017.

bonus payment in 2019.

UPCOMING HEALTH CARE ACTIVITIES ON THE HILL

House Ways and Means Committee

6/7 at 2:00pm: Health Subcommittee hearing on [Promoting Integrated and Coordinated Care for Medicare](#)

House Energy and Commerce Committee

6/8 at 10:00am: Health Subcommittee Hearing on [Examining the Role of the Department of Health and Human Services in Health Care Cybersecurity](#)

Joint Economic Committee

6/8 at 10:00am: Joint Committee hearing on the [Economic Aspects of the Opioid Crisis](#)

House Ways and Means Committee

6/8 at 1:00pm: Full Committee Hearing on the [Department of Health and Human Services' Fiscal Year 2018 Budget Request](#)

Senate HELP Committee

6/13 at 10:00am: Full Committee hearing on [The Cost of Prescription Drugs: How the Drug Delivery System Affects What Patients Pay](#)

WEEKLY FUN FACT

Did you know that...

Today's White House is set in 18 acres and covers 55,000 sq ft. It boasts 132 rooms, which includes 16 bedrooms, 35 bathrooms over six levels. There are 412 doors, 147 windows, 28 fireplaces, eight staircases, and three lifts. There's also a florist, tennis court, cinema and putting green and it takes 570 gallons of paint at a time to keep it looking white.

[Click here](#) to read more fun facts about the White House.

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