

**EDITION:** October 11, 2017

## GOVERNMENT RELATIONS & PUBLIC POLICY

*Your weekly dose of health care policy*

### CONGRESSIONAL

#### Ways & Means Passes IPAB Repeal Bill

On Oct 4, the House Ways & Means Committee passed [the Protecting Seniors' Access to Medicare Act \(H.R. 849\)](#) by a vote of 24-13. The vote was mostly down party line, except for [two democrats joining the republicans](#) in passing the measure. The bill would repeal the Affordable Care Act's Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB). The board was created to slow the growth of Medicare spending and would be triggered when the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) actuary predicts that spending will grow faster than a specified target.

### MACRA HIGHLIGHTS

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has unveiled an [interactive look-up tool](#) where 2017 Advanced Alternative Payment Model (APM) participants can look up their Qualified Participant (QP) status based on January 1, 2017 through March 31, 2017 claims. The interactive tool will be updated soon to include claims from January 1, 2017 through June 20, 2017.

Stay up to date on MACRA with

## Senate Finance and House E&C Pass CHIP

Last Wednesday, both the Senate Finance and House Energy & Commerce Committees passed their Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization bills. [The Finance Committee easily passed the Keeping Kids' Insurance Dependable and Secure \(KIDS\) Act \(S. 1827\) by voice vote.](#) The Energy & Commerce Committee had a more difficult task of discussing not only reauthorization policy, but how to pay for the policy. [The Health Kids Act of 2017 \(H.R. 3921\)](#) passed out of committee by a [party line vote of 28-23](#). Discussions will continue between the two parties to find ways to pay for the legislation before it can be brought to the House floor.

## ADMINISTRATION

### Eric Hargan Named HHS Acting Secretary

Last night, [the White House named Eric Hargan Acting Secretary of Health and Human Services \(HHS\)](#). He is replacing Don Wright who held the position for about one week after Tom Price resigned. Hargan was confirmed as Deputy Secretary by the Senate on a 57-38 vote last week.

### CMS Moves Meaningful Use Attestation System

Last Wednesday, CMS announced that they were migrating the 2017 meaningful use submission process from the Medicare & Medicaid EHR Incentive Program Registration and Attestation System to the [QualityNet Secure Portal \(QNet\)](#) for Medicare eligible hospitals and CAHs.

### HHS Withdraws Compliance for Health Plans Rule

On Oct 5, [HHS withdrew a January 2014 proposed rule](#) which would have required controlling health plans to submit certain information and documentation that demonstrated compliance with the standards & operating rules of HIPAA. This is part of HHS' bigger Administrative Simplification effort.

CMS' [recent webinars!](#)

## HEALTH CARE ACTIVITIES ON THE HILL

### House Energy and Commerce Committee

**10/11 at 10:00am:** Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee hearing on [Examining How Covered Entities Utilize the 340B Drug Pricing Program.](#)

### House Energy and Commerce Committee

**10/11 at 10:15am:** Health Subcommittee hearing on [Member Day: Testimony and Proposals on the Opioid Crisis.](#)

### Senate Health, Education, Labor & Pensions Committee

**10/17 at 10:00am:** Full committee holds a hearing on [The Cost of Prescription Drugs: How the Drug Delivery System Affects What Patients Pay, Part II.](#)

## WEEKLY FUN FACT

Prior to the 20<sup>th</sup> century, it was rare for people to be born in a hospital. Most babies were born at home. Who was the first U.S. president to be born in a hospital?

Click [here](#) to find the answer.



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