

HLB Weekly Newsletter

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EDITION: June 7, 2018



GOVERNMENT RELATIONS & PUBLIC POLICY

Your weekly dose of health care policy



CONGRESSIONAL

New MedPAC Commissioners Announced

Last Tuesday, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) announced the new Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC) Commissioners for 2018 who will serve through April 2021. The newly appointed members are:

- Karen DeSalvo, MD, MPH, MSc, Professor of Medicine and Population Health at the Dell Medical School at the University of Texas in Austin, TX
- Marjorie Ginsburg, BSN, MPH, Sacramento, CA
- Jonathan Jaffery, MD, MS, MMM, Professor of Medicine at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health in Madison, WI

MACRA HIGHLIGHTS

CMS has indicated it has met its participation goal for Year 1 in the Quality Payment Program. CMS [announced](#) 91% of Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) eligible clinicians and 98% of Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) participated in 2017.

RECENT & UPCOMING

- Jonathan Perlin, MD, PhD, MSHA, President of Clinical Services and Chief Medical Officer of HCA in Nashville, TN
- Jaewon Ryu, MD, JD, Executive Vice President and Chief Medical Officer for Geisinger Health System in Danville, PA.

ADMINISTRATION

2018 Medicare Trustees Report Released

On Tuesday, the 2018 Medicare Trustees Report was [released](#) indicating Medicare's hospital trust fund is expected to run out of money in 2026, three years earlier than previously projected. Additionally, the report noted that Medicare's total costs will grow from 3.7 percent of GDP in 2017 to 5.8 percent by 2038.

CMS Announces Medicaid and CHIP Scorecard

On Monday, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) [announced](#) its new Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) [Scorecard](#) which includes quality metrics along with federally reported measures including state health system performance; state administrative accountability; and federal administrative accountability.

FDA Releases REMS Guidance

Last Thursday, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued two draft guidance documents on [Development of a Shared System REMS](#) and [Waivers of the Single, Shared System REMS Requirement](#). Comments on these guidance documents will be accepted for 60 days following release. This guidance is an effort to allow more generic drugs onto the market quicker.

HEALTH CARE ACTIVITIES ON THE HILL

House Education and the Workforce Committee

6/6 at 10:00am: Full Committee [hearing](#) on Examining the Policies and Priorities of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

House Energy and Commerce Committee

6/6 at 10:00am: Health Subcommittee [hearing](#) on Examining the Reauthorization of the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act.

House Ways and Means Committee

6/6 at 11:00am: Health Subcommittee [hearing](#) on Lowering Costs and Expanding Access to Health Care through Consumer-Directed Health Plans.

Senate Judiciary Committee

6/7 at 10:00am: Full Committee [executive business meeting](#) on various nominations, S. 974, the CREATES Act, and S. 2837, Preventing Drug Diversions Act of 2018.

Senate HELP Committee

6/12 at 10:00am: Full Committee [hearing](#) on Examining the President's Blueprint 'American Patients First' to Lower Drug Prices.

Senate HELP Committee

6/19 at 10:00am: Full Committee [hearing](#) on the Effective Administration of the 340B Drug Pricing Program.

WEEKLY TRIVIA

True/False

June is the month with the longest daylight hours of the year in the Northern and Southern Hemispheres?

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

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