

HLB Weekly Newsletter

[View this email in your browser](#)**EDITION:** September 5, 2018

## GOVERNMENT RELATIONS & PUBLIC POLICY

*Your weekly dose of health care policy*

### CONGRESSIONAL

#### Senate Passes Health Spending Bill

On August 23, the Senate passed the [Department of Defense and Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Act, 2019 \(H.R. 6157\)](#), funding these agencies for FY 2019 with an aim of avoiding a government shutdown if Congress does not act by September 30. The legislation includes an additional \$2.3 billion increase for the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and a 5.4 percent increase for the National Institutes of Health. In addition, an amendment was included allowing for \$1 million in funding for HHS to implement regulations requiring drug companies to list their prices in TV ads. The House has not yet passed their

### MACRA HIGHLIGHTS

CMS will host a All-Payer Combination Option Overview Webinar on September 12. Click [here](#) to register.

### HEALTH CARE ACTIVITIES ON THE HILL

#### House Energy and Commerce Committee

**9/6 at 10:15am:** Oversight and Investigation Subcommittee [hearing](#) on Examining Federal

version of the Labor-HHS-Education bill. There are no fewer than 10 days left in session for Congress to pass and conference differences between their appropriations bills before the end of the fiscal year.

## ADMINISTRATION

### FY 2019 IPPS/LTCH Final Rule Posted

On August 2, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued updates to Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 Medicare payment policies and rates under the Inpatient Prospective Payment System (IPPS) and the Long-Term Care Hospital (LTCH) Prospective Payment System (PPS) [final rule](#). The [IPPS rule](#) provides a 1.85 percent update for 2019 and the LTCH rule provides a 1.0 percent payment update.

### CMS Releases Risk Adjustment Proposed Rule

On August 8, CMS released the [Methodology for the HHS-operated Permanent Risk Adjustment Program for 2018 Proposed Rule](#), which proposes to adopt the risk adjustment methodology that HHS previously established for the 2018 benefit year that uses the statewide average premium in the payment transfer formula. CMS is accepting comments on the [proposal](#) through September 7.

### MSSP Proposed Rule Posted

On August 17, CMS released a long anticipated [proposed rule](#) revamping the Medicare Shared Savings Program (MSSP) and Accountable Care Organization (ACO) program. The [proposed rule](#) seeks to transition ACOs into taking on more risk over time and proposes a glide path for organizations to take on risk based on their experience in the program and amount of revenue. CMS will accept comments through October 16.

### New Children's Health Model Announced

On August 23, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid

Efforts to Ensure Quality of Care and Resident Safety in Nursing Homes.

### House Ways and Means Committee

**9/5 at 2:00pm:** Full Committee [markup](#) of health legislation.

### MedPAC

**9/6-9/7:** [September Public Meeting](#).

## WEEKLY TRIVIA

How Many U.S. Presidents were left-handed?

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

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Innovation (CMMI) announced the [Integrated Care for Kids \(InCK\) Model](#). The new model is a child-centered local service delivery and state payment model aimed at reducing costs and increasing quality care for children covered by Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) through prevention, early identification, and treatment of priority health concerns like behavioral health challenges and physical health needs. The application process is expected to open this upcoming winter.

### **OIG Releases RFI on Anti-Kickback Rules**

On August 27, the HHS Office of Inspector General (OIG) issued a [request for information](#) on changes to the anti-kickback statute and exceptions in order to allow for care coordination, particularly in value-based care models. Comments on the [RFI](#) will be accepted through October 26.

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