

EDITION: March 1, 2019



GOVERNMENT RELATIONS & PUBLIC POLICY

Your weekly dose of health care policy

CONGRESSIONAL

Medicare-for-All Bill Introduced

On Wednesday, Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D-WA) introduced legislation creating an universal "Medicare" plan for all Americans, the [Medicare for All Act of 2019 \(H.R. 1384\)](#). The legislation is the most progressive plan to date. It would bar employers from offering separate health plans and end our current Medicare and Medicaid programs, by transitioning enrollees into the new universal plan. However, it would still allow the Veterans Affairs health system and Indian Health Services to continue. H.R. 1384 also establishes global payments for hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), home health agencies, and independent dialysis facilities. While the legislation would likely cost a large amount to implement, there are no offsets included in the legislation. Despite concern from Democratic

MACRA HIGHLIGHTS

CMS has [new resources](#) to their website including a Data Submission User Guide and Fact Sheet and Facility-Based Measurement Fact Sheet.

HEALTH CARE ACTIVITIES ON THE HILL

Senate HELP Committee

3/5 at 10:00am: Full Committee [Hearing](#) on Vaccines Saves Lives: What is Driving Preventable Disease Outbreaks?

leadership, the bill was introduced with over 100 Democratic cosponsors. Although it has gained a lot of attention politically, it will face many challenges this Congress.

ADMINISTRATION

Interoperability Deadline & Listening Session

After the initial release of the Office of the National Coordinator (ONC) [proposed rule](#) and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) [proposed rule](#) on interoperability, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has indicated the rules will formally be published on Monday, March 4, with a deadline to comment of May 3, 2019. CMS will also host a [listening session](#) on the proposed rule on March 5 at 2pm EST.

Hospital Star Ratings

Yesterday, CMS [updated](#) the Hospital Compare Overall Hospital Quality Star Ratings and [requested](#) public comment on future updates to the program. Comments will be accepted through March 29, 2019.

CMS has a Podcast!

CMS has recently launched its own podcast series called "[CMS: Beyond the Policy](#)" which will cover updates and policy changes at the agency. The first episode highlights updates to the Evaluation and Management Coding (E/M Codes) in the CY2019 Physician Fee Schedule Rule.

RFI on Grandfathered Group Health Plans Released

On February 25, The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) released a [Request for Information](#) Regarding Grandfathered Group Health Plans and Grandfathered Group Health Insurance Coverage in order to better understand the challenges that they face in avoiding a loss of grandfathered

Senate Finance Committee

3/6 at 10:15am: Full Committee [Hearing](#) on Not Forgotten: Protecting Americans From Abuse and Neglect in Nursing Homes
House Energy & Commerce Committee

House Energy & Commerce Committee

3/6 at 10:00am: Health Subcommittee [Hearing](#) on Strengthening Our Health Care System: Legislation to Lower Consumer Costs and Expand Access

House Ways & Means Committee

3/7 at 10:00am: Health Subcommittee [Hearing](#) on Promoting Competition to Lower Medicare Drug Prices

MedPAC

3/7-3/8: [March Public Meeting](#)

MACPAC

3/7-3/8: [March Public Meeting](#)

WEEKLY TRIVIA

Who was the first Senator to serve three states?

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

status, and to determine whether there are opportunities for the Departments to assist such plans and issuers. Comments are due March 27.

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