

**EDITION:** March 14, 2019



## GOVERNMENT RELATIONS & PUBLIC POLICY

*Your weekly dose of health care policy*

### CONGRESSIONAL

#### Energy and Commerce investigating Short Term Insurance Plans

Yesterday, House Energy and Commerce Committee Democrats [announced](#) an investigation into practices of Short-Term, Limited Duration Insurance (STLDI) health plans, requesting documents and information to inform the Committee of any practices denying coverage or charging more based on age, gender or health status. The investigation follows action from the Administration on the August final rule extending the duration of STLDI plans from three months to up to twelve months and allowing renewal for up to 36 months.

### ADMINISTRATION

#### MACRA HIGHLIGHTS

Check out CMS' [FAQ](#) on Facility Based Measurement for Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) eligible clinicians, groups, and virtual groups whose primary health care responsibilities take place in hospital settings.

#### HEALTH CARE ACTIVITIES ON THE HILL

\*The House and Senate will have a district work period next week.

## President's FY 2020 Budget Released

On Monday, President Trump released his [FY 2020 Budget](#) for federal government programs. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) [budget](#) consists of a 12 percent overall cut to the Department in 2020 including specific cuts to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The budget also included various policy changes to cut costs in the Medicare and Medicaid programs included site neutral payment policies for hospitals, consolidation of Graduate Medical Education (GME) payments, cuts to uncompensated care and bad debt, among others. Two of the President's focus areas in the overall budget included combating the [opioid epidemic](#) and [lowering drug prices](#). The President's budget is not legislation, but a blueprint of Administrative priorities for the year. Many of the cuts included in this year's budget would be unlikely to be passed by the current Congress.

Both chambers will return on March 25.

### **Senate Health, Labor, Education, and Pensions Committee**

3/26 at 10:00am: Full Committee [Hearing](#) on Implementing the 21st Century Cures Act: Making Electronic Health Information Available to Patients and Providers

### WEEKLY TRIVIA

What is the typical deadline President's release their annual budget?

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

## HOOPER, LUNDY & BOOKMAN, P.C.

Government Relations and Public Policy

401 9th Street NW, Suite 550 Washington, DC 20004 | Telephone 202.580.7700

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