

EDITION: May 23, 2019



GOVERNMENT RELATIONS & PUBLIC POLICY

Your weekly dose of health care policy

***Note-** There will be no update next week due to the Memorial Day holiday

CONGRESSIONAL

Senate HELP Committee Releases Cost-Lowering Proposal

Today, after multiple hearings and a year of stakeholder feedback, the Senate Health, Education, Labor & Pensions (HELP) Committee released its bipartisan draft of legislation to bring down health care costs, the [Lower Health Care Costs Act](#). The [draft](#) includes proposals on five areas including:

1. Ending Surprise Medical Bills
2. Reducing the Prices of Prescription Drugs
3. Improving Transparency in Health Care
4. Improving Public Health
5. Improving the Exchange of Health Information

Chairman Alexander (R-TN) and Ranking Member Murray (D-WA) seek to mark up the legislation next month, combining policies with drug proposals being drafted by the Senate Finance Committee, with hopes of a vote later this summer. The Committee will accept feedback on the discussion draft through June 5.

Surprise Billing Activity Update

A flurry of drafts and activity has continued this week surrounding the issue of surprise billing. In addition to today's Senate HELP

MACRA HIGHLIGHTS

Check out CMMI's Quality Payment Program [Webinar Library](#) for helpful resources on a variety of topics.

HEALTH CARE ACTIVITIES ON THE HILL

Congress is not in session next week for the Memorial Day holiday. The Senate will return June 3, and the House will return June 4.

Weekly Trivia

What was Memorial Day originally known as?

Click [here](#) for the answer!

Committee release which included surprise billing provisions, the Ways and Means Health Subcommittee held a [hearing](#) on the topic, and another outline on legislation set to be introduced was released from Reps. Joe Morelle (D-NY) and Van Taylor (R-TX).

A comprehensive list of all of the current plans are as follows:

- Bipartisan Senate HELP Committee- [Lower Health Care Costs Act](#) (draft- comments accepted through June 5) ([summary](#))
- Bipartisan House Energy and Commerce- [No Surprises Act](#) (draft- comments accepted through May 28) ([summary](#))
- Bipartisan Senate Workgroup- [STOP Surprise Medical Bills Act \(S. 1531\)](#) ([summary](#))
- Rep. Lloyd Doggett(D-TX))- [The End Surprise Billing Act \(H.R. 861\)](#) ([press release](#))
- Reps. Joe Morelle (D-NY) and Van Taylor (R-TX)- [Ending Surprise Medical Billing Legislative Outline](#) (not yet introduced)

Despite a great deal of bipartisan interest in this issue, negotiations are far from over with so many ideas and drafts circulating. We expect more discussions and hearings later this summer.

ADMINISTRATION

ET3 RFA and FAQ Released

On Wednesday, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) released its [Request for Applications](#) (RFA) and [Frequently Asked Questions](#) (FAQ) for the Emergency Triage, Treat, and Transport (ET3) Model announced last month. The RFA is only informational at this time, with the application period forthcoming.

Direct Contracting RFI Extended

CMMI has [announced](#) an extension of the comment period on the Direct Contracting Geographic Population Based Payment (PBP) Model Option [Request for Information](#) (RFI) through May 30.

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