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GOVERNMENT RELATIONS & PUBLIC POLICY

Your weekly dose of health care policy

CONGRESSIONAL

Ways and Means Passes Drug Pricing Legislation

On Tuesday, the House Ways and Means Committee unanimously passed the [Prescription Drug Sunshine, Transparency, Accountability and Reporting \(STAR\) Act \(H.R. 2113\)](#). The Prescription Drug STAR Act consolidates four previous bills into one and would require drug manufacturers to publicly justify large price increases, report the total aggregate monetary value and quantity of samples provided to health care providers, and submit information on average sales price (ASP) for physician-administered drugs covered under Medicare Part B. Additionally, the legislation would require the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to conduct a study on hospital inpatient drug costs and to publicly disclose the aggregate rebates, discounts, and other price concessions achieved by pharmaceutical benefits managers (PBMs).

The legislation now heads to the House floor for a vote, although members of both parties have indicated they may make changes to the final bill beforehand.

ADMINISTRATION

CMS Releases Final MA and Part D Technical Changes including Telehealth

MACRA HIGHLIGHTS

This week CMS released its [Care Coordination Toolkit](#) and series of case studies from Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) and End-Stage Renal Disease Care (ESRD) Seamless Care Organizations (ESCOs).

HEALTH CARE ACTIVITIES ON THE HILL

There are no health care hearings currently scheduled for next week due to the two week in-district work period. Both the House and Senate will return to D.C. on April 29.

WEEKLY TRIVIA

This unique structure in Washington D.C. was part of George Washington's vision when creating the capitol and is one of the

On Friday, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued the [final rule](#) to update policies and make technical changes to the Medicare Advantage and Part D programs for contract years (CY) 2020 and 2021. The [rule](#) implements provisions in the Bipartisan Budget Act (BBA) of 2018, including the expansion of telehealth benefits, updates to dual-eligible special needs plans (D-SNPs) processes and modifications to the Star Rating System.

oldest of its kind in North America. What is it?

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

April 18 Webinar on AI Health Outcomes Challenge

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) will host a webinar to provide further details on the [AI Health Outcomes Challenge](#) announced last week. You can register for the webinar on April 18 [here](#). The Stage 1 submission deadline is June 18.

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