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GOVERNMENT RELATIONS & PUBLIC POLICY

Your weekly dose of health care policy

CONGRESSIONAL

House Committees Pass Drug Pricing Legislation

On October 17, the House Energy and Commerce and Education and Labor Committees passed on a party line vote, the updated [Lower Drug Costs Now Act of 2019 \(H.R. 3\)](#) led by Speaker Nancy Pelosi that would allow for negotiation of prices on high cost medicines. Along with the drug pricing bill, Energy and Commerce Committee passed four additional bills to be paid for by the savings achieved from the legislation. These bills seek to have Medicare cover hearing, vision and dental including:

- [Medicare Vision Act](#) (H.R. 4665)
- [Health Seniors Afford Health Care Act](#) (H.R. 4671)
- [Medicare Hearing Act](#) (H.R. 4618)
- [Medicare Dental Act](#) (H.R. 4650)

The House Ways and Means Committee is expected to mark-up the legislation next week, while Senate Finance and Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committees have their own bipartisan version of drug pricing legislation working through the Senate, however on a much slower timeline.

MACRA HIGHLIGHTS

CMS has a number of modules on the Quality Payment Program in their [Medicare Learning Network](#) (MLN) - including five new continuing medical education (CME) modules on Alternative Payment Models (APMs)!

HEALTH CARE ACTIVITIES ON THE HILL

House Energy and Commerce Committee

10/23 at 10:00am: Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee [hearing](#) titled; "Sabotage: The Trump Administration's Attack on Health Care."

Senate Finance Committee

10/24 at 10:30: Full Committee [hearing](#) titled; "Treating Substance Misuse in America: Scams, Shortfalls, and Solutions."

Weekly Trivia

When was the first electronic vote cast in the House of Representatives?

Click [here](#) for the answer!

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