



EDITION: November 22, 2019



NOTE: Due to the Thanksgiving Holiday, there will be no update next week.

CONGRESSIONAL

CR Passed with Health Extenders

On November 21, the President signed a continuing resolution (CR) to fund the government and avert a shutdown through December 20. The CR included an extension of health care provisions set to expire including a delay of Medicaid disproportionate share hospital (DSH) cuts, programs for community behavioral health, Community Health Centers, National Health Service Corps, and Teaching Health Centers. Both the House and the Senate will return after Thanksgiving with just a few weeks to address government funding once again.

ADMINISTRATION

CMS Releases Medicaid Fiscal Accountability Rule

On November 12, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released its [Medicaid Fiscal Accountability Regulation \(MFAR\)](#) seeking to increase transparency in Medicaid state supplemental payments and financing arrangements. Comments on the [MFAR](#) are due January 7, 2020.

MACRA HIGHLIGHTS

Get up to date with the 2020 changes for the Quality Payment Program (QPP) from CMS' [Fact Sheet](#) and [FAQ](#).

HEALTH CARE ACTIVITIES ON THE HILL

2020 House Calendar

This week, the House released their [2020 Calendar](#). We are still waiting for the Senate to release their's.

Next Week

The House and Senate will be out next week for the Thanksgiving Holiday. The Senate will return on Monday, December 2, and the House will return on Tuesday, December 3.

Weekly Trivia

Who was the first President to pardon a turkey for

Administration Issues Transparency Rules

On November 15, CMS issued its final hospital price transparency [rule](#). The hospital [rule](#), effective January 1, 2021, requires hospitals to disclose their negotiated rates with third-party payers for all items, services, and service packages provided by the hospital, as well as those provided by hospital-employed physicians.

On the same day, a joint-agency [proposed](#) insurer cost-sharing disclosure rule was also released. The [proposed rule](#) for group health plans and health insurers would require health plans to provide consumers real-time cost-sharing information and negotiated rates on a public website. Comments on the proposed rule are due 60 days after the rule is published in the federal register.

Thanksgiving?

Click [here](#) for the answer!

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