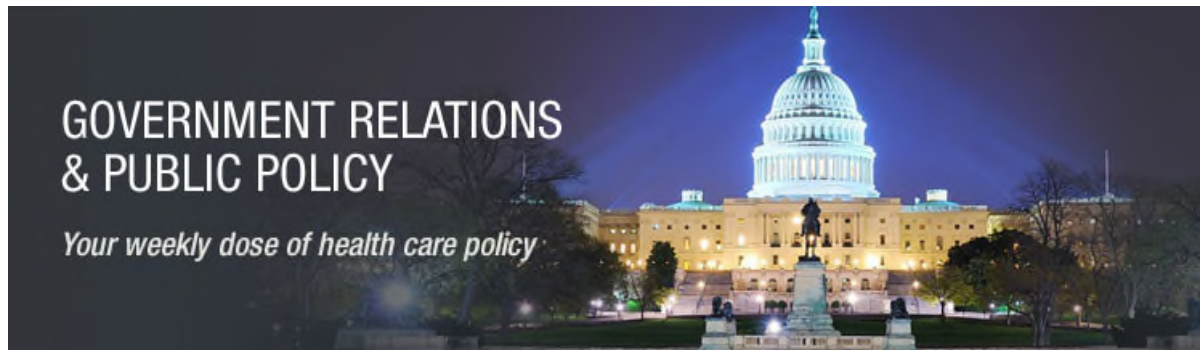


**EDITION:** January 17, 2020



## CONGRESSIONAL

### House E&C GOP Leaders Focus on Alzheimer's

On January 16, Republican House Energy and Commerce Committee Leaders [sent letters](#) to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) requesting information on efforts and barriers in Alzheimer's Disease and Alzheimer's Disease-Related Dementias (AD/ADRD or Alzheimer's) research. They are requesting feedback by the end of January on goals of effectively treating and preventing AD/ADRD by 2025.

## ADMINISTRATION

### Brad Smith Announced as CMMI Director

On January 6, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) [announced](#) Brad Smith as the new Director of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI), as well as a Senior Advisor for Value-Based Care Transformation within HHS following the departure of Adam Boehler last year. Smith was previously CEO of Aspire health, a healthcare company focused on providing home-based palliative care services to patients facing serious illnesses.

## MACRA HIGHLIGHTS

CMS has [released](#) the Quality Payment Program (QPP) Performance Data for 2018.

## HEALTH CARE ACTIVITIES ON THE HILL

The House is in recess next week for the MLK Holiday and the Senate is only working on impeachment for the foreseeable future.

## Weekly Trivia

What is the story behind the passage of the Smoot-Hawley Tariff, included in the memorable scene from Ferris Buehlers Day off... "Anyone? Anyone?"

Click [here](#) for the answer!

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## Part I of 2021 MA Advance Notice Released

On January 6, CMS released Part 1 of 2 of the 2021 Medicare Advantage (MA) [Advance Notice of Methodological Changes](#) which includes changes to the Hierarchical Condition Categories (CMS-HCC) Risk Adjustment model for plans. In particular, CMS [proposed](#) to further increase the use of encounter data in calculating risk scores to 75%. Part 2 of the Advance Notice is expected in the coming weeks which will include more policy changes to the program. Comments are due March 6.

## Transparency in Coverage Comments Extended

On January 3, CMS extended the comment period for the Transparency in Coverage proposed rule to [January 29](#). The [rule](#) would require insurers to disclose negotiated prices with hospitals and other providers and has received pushback from the health care industry.

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