

EDITION: January 31, 2020



CONGRESSIONAL

CBO Releases Budget Outlook

On January 28, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) released its [2020-2030 Budget and Economic Outlook](#), finding that the U.S. economy is expected to grow at a rate of 2.2% this year, with the federal deficit increasing to \$1 trillion. Three-fourths of the increases in mandatory spending over the next ten years are attributable to the Social Security and Medicare programs.

ADMINISTRATION

Medicaid Block Grant Guidance Released

On January 30, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) wrote a [letter](#) to State Medicaid Directors indicating a new program, the Healthy Adult Opportunity (HAO) allowing flexibility for states to design and administer their own programs to contain costs. The [program](#) allows states to apply for lump-sum Medicaid payments for adult populations under Medicaid expansion and allows for broader negotiating power for drug costs.

2021 Proposed Rule on Exchange Plans Released

Today, CMS [proposed](#) the 2021 Benefit and Payment Parameters for exchange plans. The proposal includes

MACRA HIGHLIGHTS

Check out CMS' new [MIPS Explore Measures](#) tool!

HEALTH CARE ACTIVITIES ON THE HILL

House Ways and Means Committee

2/5 at 2:00pm: Health Subcommittee [hearing](#) on More Cures for More Patients: Overcoming Pharmaceutical Barriers

House Energy and Commerce Committee

2/5 at 10:30am: Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee [hearing](#) on Vaping in America: E-Cigarette Manufacturers' Impact on Public Health

Senate Finance Committee

2/5 at 10:00am: Full Committee [hearing](#) to consider pending nominations including the Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services

payment parameters, updates to risk adjustment and reductions in cost sharing. Comments will be accepted through March 2, 2020.

Weekly Trivia

How many days does the House have in session each congressional year compared to the 18th and 19th centuries when the chamber frequently stayed in session on weekends?

Click [here](#) for the answer!

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