

EDITION: February 7, 2020



CONGRESSIONAL

Two House Committees Release Surprise Billing Legislation

This morning, House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Richard Neal (D-MA) and Ranking Member Kevin Brady (R-TX) released text of their surprise billing legislation, the [Consumer Protections Against Surprise Medical Bills Act of 2020](#). The [legislation](#) is expected to be marked up by the Committee February 12.

Additionally, House Education and Labor Committee Chairman Bobby Scott (D-VA) and Ranking Member Virginia Fox (R-NC) also [released](#) their version of surprise billing legislation today and will markup [the bill](#) on February 11. With other proposals in the Senate and House Energy and Commerce Committees, it is still unclear what legislation or provisions could ultimately move forward or could be included in a larger health care package in May.

ADMINISTRATION

MA and Part D Advance Notice and Proposed Rule Released

On February 5, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released the 2021 Medicare Advantage and

MACRA HIGHLIGHTS

Make sure you review CMS' Scoring 101 [Guide](#) for the 2019 Performance Year.

HEALTH CARE ACTIVITIES ON THE HILL

House Education and Labor Committee

2/11 at 10:15am: Full Committee [markup](#) of H.R. 5800, the Ban Surprise Billing Act

House Energy and Commerce Committee

2/12 at 10:00am: Health Subcommittee [hearing](#) on Protecting Women's Access to Reproductive Health Care

Senate Finance Committee

2/13 at 9:30am: Full Committee [hearing](#) on the President's Fiscal Year 2021 Budget for the Department of Health and Human Services

Part D [Advance Notice Part II](#) along with the [CY 2021/2022 Medicare Advantage and Part D Proposed Rule](#). The [Advance Notice](#) includes updated rates of an overall .93%. There are also updates to the risk adjustment methodology, use of encounter data, and star ratings. Comments on both Part I and Part II of the Advance Notice will be accepted through March 6, with the final 2021 Rate Announcement being published by April 6. Unlike in years past, CMS indicated it will not be publishing a Call Letter for 2021 and is instead including guidance typically included in the Call Letter in the MA and Part D Proposed Rule and bidding instructions. The [Proposed Rule](#) implements changes from the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, the 21st Century Cures Act and the Substance Use-Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment for Patients and Communities Act (SUPPORT Act). These changes include allowing individuals with end-stage renal disease (ESRD) to enroll in MA, updates supplemental benefit requirements, offering two specialty tiers for plan drug formularies among other provisions. Comments on the proposed rule will be accepted through April 6.

Weekly Trivia

How many current and former members of Congress have played professional sports?

Click [here](#) for the answer!

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