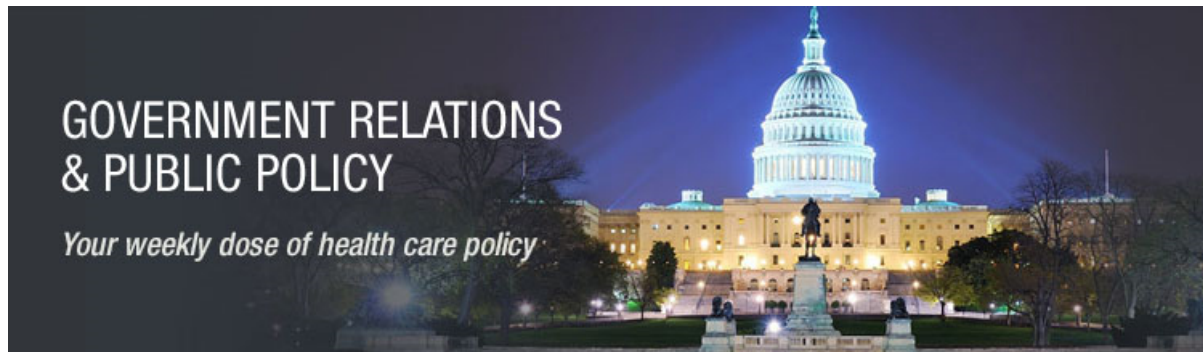


EDITION: June 19, 2020



COVID-19 Resources

[HLB COVID-19 Resource Center](#)

[Slides and Recordings of Previous Webinars](#)

Administration

CMS Releases Guide for Patients

On June 9, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released a [guide](#) for patients and beneficiaries to provide recommendations to ensure that non-emergency health care resumes safely as health care facilities begin to reopen and that patients are receiving needed in-person treatment that may have been postponed.

Direct Contracting Model LOI Available

On June 17, the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) opened its [application portal](#) for Letters of Intent (LOI) for Performance Year 1 of the Direct Contracting Model. LOIs are due by July 6th for an April 1, 2021 start date. CMS has indicated there will be a second cohort of the Direct Contracting Model Professional and Global options that starts on January 1, 2022. CMS expects that the application period for this cohort will begin in the first quarter of 2021.

CMS Releases Proposed Rule Supporting VBP in

QUALITY PAYMENT PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Clinicians may now [earn credit](#) in the Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) for participation in a clinical trial and reporting clinical information by attesting to the new COVID-19 Clinical Trials improvement activity.

UPCOMING HEALTH CARE ACTIVITIES ON THE HILL

Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee

6/23 at 10:00am: Full Committee [hearing](#) on COVID-19: Lessons Learned to Prepare for the Next Pandemic

6/30 at 10:00am: Full Committee [hearing](#) on COVID-19: Update on Progress Toward Safely Getting Back to Work and Back to School

Commercial and Medicaid Plans

On June 17, CMS released the Establishing Minimum Standards in Medicaid State Drug Utilization Review (DUR) and Supporting Value-Based Purchasing (VBP) for Drugs Covered in Medicaid, Revising Medicaid Drug Rebate and Third Party Liability (TPL) Requirements [proposed rule](#). The [proposed rule](#) intends to increase beneficiary access to medications by promoting value-based purchasing (VBP), encouraging the appropriate use of opioids, and clarifying the application of new authorized generic law to the calculation of a manufacturer's brand name average manufacturing price (AMP), among other items. Comments are due July 20.

House Ways and Means Committee

6/23 at 2:00pm: Worker and Family Support Subcommittee [hearing](#) on The Child Care Crisis and the Coronavirus Pandemic

6/25 at 2:00pm: Health Subcommittee [hearing](#) Examining the COVID-19 Nursing Home Crisis

House Energy and Commerce Committee

6/23 at 11:00am: Full Committee [hearing](#) on Oversight of the Trump Administration's Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

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