

EDITION: September 11, 2020



COVID-19 Resources

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Congressional

Congress Returns to Funding and COVID Negotiations

The Senate returned this week and the House will return next week for voting. There are only a few weeks remaining to fund the government past September 30, and address any additional COVID-19 relief legislation prior to the elections.

Yesterday, the Senate failed to get the 60 votes necessary to pass their "skinny" COVID relief bill, only including a limited number of provisions to gain support of Senate Republicans. This puts the House and the Senate even further apart at any attempts to negotiate a next COVID-19 response bill.

Over August, Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin came to an agreement in concept to pass a clean Continuing Resolution (CR) to fund the government past the deadline at the end of the month, although action on that deal is yet to be pursued. Any CR would likely provide funding until after the election and would not include any COVID relief provisions.

QUALITY PAYMENT PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Check out the details of the 2021 Quality Payment Program proposed rule through the CMS [Fact Sheet](#) and 2020 Comparison.

UPCOMING HEALTH CARE ACTIVITIES ON THE HILL

Senate Health, Education, Labor & Pensions

9/23 at 10:00am: Full Committee hearing on [COVID-19: An Update on the Federal Response](#).

House E&C Passes 26 Health Care Bills

On September 9, the House Energy and Commerce Committee [passed](#) a number of bipartisan bills, including 26 pertaining to health care. This markup included legislation pertaining to mental health, suicide prevention, and opioid addiction. These bills will now move to the House floor for a vote.

Administration

CMS Releases Breakthrough Devices Proposed Rule

On August 31, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released its Medicare Coverage of Innovative Technology (MCIT) [proposed rule](#). The [rule](#) provides a definition of "reasonable and necessary" and establishes a pathway for breakthrough devices to gain coverage for four years following FDA market authorization based on eligibility rules. Comments will be accepted through November 2.

CMS Releases IPPS and LTCH Final Rule

On September 2, CMS released the FY 2021 Inpatient Prospective Payment System (IPPS) and Long-term Care Hospital (LTCH) [Final Rule](#). The [rule](#), which becomes effective October 1, increases payments by 2.9 percent and updates to the area wage index, CAR T-cell therapy payment, Medicare Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) and quality programs.

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