

EDITION: March 15, 2017

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS & PUBLIC POLICY

Your weekly dose of health care policy

CONGRESSIONAL

House Committees Pass ACA Repeal/Replace

Last Wednesday and Thursday, the House Ways & Means and Energy & Commerce Committees held mark-ups of the American Health Care Act (AHCA) released earlier in the week. After hours of voting, both Committees passed the legislation without any amendments. Passage was along part lines. The legislation will now be marked up by the House Budget Committee tomorrow before a final vote on the House floor. With growing concerns, and criticism over the score, it is unclear how many Republicans will vote for the legislation.

MACRA HIGHLIGHTS

CMS will be hosting two upcoming webinars on the Quality Payment Program (QPP). The first, on [virtual groups](#) will be held on March 16 and a webinar on [ACO Track 1+](#) will be held on March 22. CMS posts recordings of their webinars on its [website](#).

UPCOMING HEALTH CARE ACTIVITIES

House Budget Committee
3/16 at 10:00am - [Committee](#)

CBO Releases Score of American Health Care Act

On Monday, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) released its [score](#) of the American Health Care Act (AHCA), legislation that would repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act (ACA). In the report, CBO estimates the AHCA will reduce the deficit by \$337 billion over a decade while increasing the number of uninsured by 24 million people in 2026.

ADMINISTRATIVE

CMS Administrator Verma Confirmed & Sworn-In

On Monday, the Senate voted 55-43 to confirm Seema Verma as the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and she was officially sworn-in yesterday.

Ms. Verma previously worked as a health care consultant and is credited as the architect of Indiana's Healthy Indiana Plan for Medicaid.

HHS and Treasury Encouraging State Flexibility Options

This past Monday, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Department of Treasury [targeted states](#) suggesting ways to help foster healthcare innovation by giving states greater flexibility through Section 1332 State Innovation Waivers. HHS Secretary Price also sent a [letter](#) to every Governor urging them to use the 1332 waivers for high-risk pools and reinsurance.

CMS Releases Chronic Care Management Resources

Today, CMS released a new web page to assist providers in increasing utilization of the payable [chronic care management codes](#). These resources seek to educate providers on providing these services and assisting beneficiaries with multiple chronic conditions.

WEEKLY FUN FACT

True or False. Currently, there are over 250 different types of healthcare legislation pending in congress? The answer can be found [here](#).

HOOPER, LUNDY & BOOKMAN, P.C.

Government Relations and Public Policy

401 9th Street NW, Suite 550 Washington, DC 20004 | Telephone 202.580.7700

www.health-law.com | [@HLBHealthLaw](https://twitter.com/HLBHealthLaw)

Copyright © 2016 Hooper, Lundy & Bookman, P.C. All rights reserved.