

**EDITION:** January 12, 2017

## GOVERNMENT RELATIONS & PUBLIC POLICY

*Your weekly dose of health care policy*



### TRUMP TRANSITION

Yesterday, during a press conference, President-Elect Donald Trump indicated he would be nominating Dr. David J. Shulkin as secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Shulkin currently is undersecretary for health at the agency and head of the Veterans Health Administration. Shulkin was previously nominated for his current position by President Obama.

### CONGRESSIONAL

**House Democrats Announce Committee Assignments**  
On January 5th, House Democrats announced the

### UPCOMING HEALTH CARE ACTIVITIES

**Senate Health, Education,  
Labor & Pensions  
Committee**

1/18 at 10:00am - Full  
Committee hearing on the  
[Nomination of Tom Price to  
serve as Secretary of Health  
and Human Services.](#)

**WEEKLY FUN FACT**  
Which President

following additions to Congressional Committees:

*House Energy and Commerce Committee*

Raul Ruiz (D-CA)

Debbie Dingell (D-MI)

Scott Peters (D-CA)

*House Ways & Means Committee*

Brian Higgins (D-NY)

Terri Sewell (D-AL)

Suzan DelBene (D-WA)

**Rep. Burgess Announced as New E&C Health Chair**

On January 9, Energy and Commerce Chairman Greg Walden announced that Congressman Michael C. Burgess, M.D. (R-TX) was appointed as the Health Subcommittee Chairman. Congressman Burgess was the lead architect of the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA). Congressman Brett Guthrie (R-KY) will remain as Vice Chairman of the Subcommittee.

**Budget Resolution to Repeal Affordable Care Act Passed by Senate**

Early this morning, after voting on amendments throughout the night, the Senate passed a final budget resolution with a vote of 51-48. Only one Republican, Senator Rand Paul (R-KY), voted against the measure in part over concerns of Republican Leadership having no replacement. It is likely the House will quickly take up this measure and pass it this week. After passage, Congressional Committees will have until January 27 to draft repeal legislation. Negotiations continue on what a repeal package may look like and whether or not a

gave the longest Inaugural Address of 100 minutes (8,495 words) in extremely cold weather that lead to his death one month later? [Click here](#) to find out.

replacement package will be passed along with it, or further detailed in the future.

## FEDERAL

### Home Health Final Rule Released

On January 9, The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released the [Final Rule](#) regarding Medicare and Medicaid Conditions of Participation for Home Health. The Conditions of Participation are the minimum health and safety standards a home health agency must meet in order to participate in the Medicare and Medicaid programs.

### CMS Announces ICD-10 Updates

On January 9, CMS [announced](#) that they examined the impact to quality measures and has determined that the ICD-10 code updates will impact CMS' ability to process data reported on certain quality measures for the 4th quarter of calendar year (CY) 2016. Due to this challenge, CMS will not apply the 2017 or 2018 PQRS downward payment adjustments, as applicable, to any individual eligible professional (EP) or group practice that fails to satisfactorily report for CY 2016 solely as a result of the impact of ICD-10 code updates on quality data reported for the 4th quarter of CY 2016.

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### HOOPER, LUNDY & BOOKMAN, P.C.

#### Government Relations and Public Policy

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

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