

**EDITION:** September 6, 2017

## GOVERNMENT RELATIONS & PUBLIC POLICY

*Your weekly dose of health care policy*

### CONGRESSIONAL

#### **Congress Returns with Busy September Schedule**

Returning yesterday from the August Recess, the House and the Senate have returned for a busy September session with many deadlines to address in a limited number of legislative days. This week, Senate committees will turn their efforts to Affordable Care Act (ACA) stabilization as well as the reauthorization of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) set to expire September 30. Both the House and the Senate will also begin addressing FY 2018 appropriations bills before the September 30 deadline, and a more immediate aid package for Hurricane Harvey relief. Congress will likely only be able to address some of their deadlines in the short term,

### MACRA HIGHLIGHTS

CMS has created an [Alternative Payment Model Design Toolkit](#) for proposing models in the future for CMMI to test and expand.

### HEALTH CARE ACTIVITIES ON THE HILL

**Senate Health, Education,  
Labor & Pensions Committee**  
9/6 at 10:00am: Full Committee  
hearing titled; "[Stabilizing  
Premiums and Helping Individuals](#)

with a Continuing Resolution (CR) to fund the government until a deal can be reached. Congress must also address an increase in the debt ceiling this month as it also seeks to address other issues that have now come to the forefront including Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), tax reform, and the defense reauthorization.

## ADMINISTRATION

### CMS Proposes Rollback of Mandatory Payment Models

On August 15, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) [proposed](#) to cancel the Episode Payment Models (EPMs) and Cardiac Rehabilitation (CR) incentive payment model set to begin January 1, 2018 and rollback the expansion of the Comprehensive Joint Replacement (CJR) model. CMS has proposed to reduce the number of geographic areas participating in the CJR model from 67 to 34 and allow those remaining the opportunity to participate on a voluntary basis, with further exceptions for low volume and rural hospitals. This proposal comes as no surprise after Republicans, including now Secretary Tom Price, had criticized the mandatory payment models announced last year. CMS indicates it seeks to increase opportunities in the future for voluntary alternative payment models (APMs). CMS will accept public comments on the proposal through October 16, 2017.

### HRSA Further Delays 340B

On August 17, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) [proposed](#) a further delay of the 340B Drug Pricing Program final rule from October 1, 2017 to July 1, 2018. This final rule included updates to the program including the calculation of the ceiling price and application of civil monetary penalties. In its proposal to further delay the final rule, HRSA indicated it would "allow a more deliberate process

[in the Individual Insurance Market for 2018: State Insurance Commissioners](#)".

9/7 at 9:00am: Full Committee hearing titled; "[Stabilizing Premiums and Helping Individuals in the Individual Insurance Market for 2018: Governors](#)."

#### Senate Finance Committee

9/7 at 10:00am: Full Committee hearing titled; "[The Children's Health Insurance Program: The Path Forward](#)."

#### Senate Appropriations Committee

9/6 at 11:00am: Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies [markup of the FY2018 Labor, HHS, Education Appropriations Bill](#).

**Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC) [Public Meeting: September 7-8](#)**

#### WEEKLY FUN FACT

Did you know that in 1894 President Grover Cleveland and the US Congress made Labor Day an official national holiday to honor working people? As of July 2017, can you estimate the number people in the United States civilian labor force? Click [here](#) to find the answer.

of considering alternative and supplemental regulatory provisions and to allow for sufficient time for additional rulemaking." HRSA will accept comments on this proposal through September 20, 2017.

### **CMS to Host Webinar on 2018 IPPS Final Rule**

CMS has announced it will host a webinar on Tuesday, September 12 to provide an overview of the fiscal year (FY) 2018 Inpatient Prospective Payment System (IPPS) Final Rule including updates of the quality reporting programs. The webinar will be held from 2:00-3:00pm EST. Register [here](#).

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