

EDITION: May 17, 2019



GOVERNMENT RELATIONS & PUBLIC POLICY

Your weekly dose of health care policy

CONGRESSIONAL

Surprise Billing Legislation Rolling Out

After months of receiving feedback, details on possible legislation regarding surprise billing were released this week. First, bipartisan leaders from the House Energy and Commerce Committee released a draft [bill](#) and [summary](#) of the No Surprises Act, holding patients to their in-network cost-sharing amounts for certain services while prohibiting balance billing, and setting the payment for out-of-network services at a "recognized amount." The Committee will accept feedback on their draft through May 28.

Next, a bipartisan Senate Surprise Billing Workgroup introduced the [STOP Surprise Medical Bills Act \(S. 1531\)](#) along with a [summary](#), which would prohibit balance billing in certain instances and automatically provide payment to providers at the median in-network rate. Under the bill, providers would also go through a "baseball-style" arbitration process if they dispute that amount.

More bills on this topic are likely to continue to be released in the coming weeks and months as health care Committees and others seek to put their mark on legislation. Additionally, the House Ways and Means Committee has already set a hearing on the topic for Tuesday.

House Passes Drug Pricing Along with ACA Fixes

MACRA HIGHLIGHTS

Check out CMMI's Quality Payment Program [Webinar Library](#) for helpful resources on a variety of topics.

HEALTH CARE ACTIVITIES ON THE HILL

House Energy and Commerce Committee

5/21 at 10:30am: Health Subcommittee [hearing](#) on Improving Drug Pricing Transparency and Lowering Prices for American Consumers

House Ways & Means Committee

5/21 at 2:00pm: Health Subcommittee [hearing](#) on Protecting Patients from Surprise Medical Bills

House Budget Committee

5/22 at 10:00am: Full Committee [hearing](#) on Key Design Components and Considerations for Establishing a Single-Payer

Yesterday, the House of Representatives passed the [MORE Health Education Act \(H.R. 987\)](#) a bill pairing bipartisan drug pricing bills with Democratic led fixes to the Affordable Care Act. The three drug pricing provisions included would restrict anti-competitive behaviors by pharmaceutical companies and had been negotiated in a bipartisan way up until the vote. With the inclusion of ACA provisions, this legislation will likely go nowhere in the Senate.

ADMINISTRATION

MA and Part D Rule Finalized

Yesterday, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released the Medicare Advantage and Medicare Part D Drug Pricing [final rule](#). CMS did not finalize controversial changes to the Part D Protected class in the [rule](#) but finalized modifications to the use of Step Therapy for Part B Drugs in Medicare Advantage among other things. Most provisions of the rule will go into effect January 1, 2020.

Health Care System

House Veterans' Affairs Committee

5/22 at 10:00am: Joint Health and Technology and Modernization Subcommittee [hearing](#) on MISSION Critical: Caring for Our Heroes

Senate Aging Committee

5/22 at 9:30am: Full Committee [hearing](#) on Aging and Disability in the 21st Century: How Technology Can Help Maintain Health and Quality of Life

Weekly Trivia

Who was the first President to travel by airplane for official business?

Click [here](#) for the answer!

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