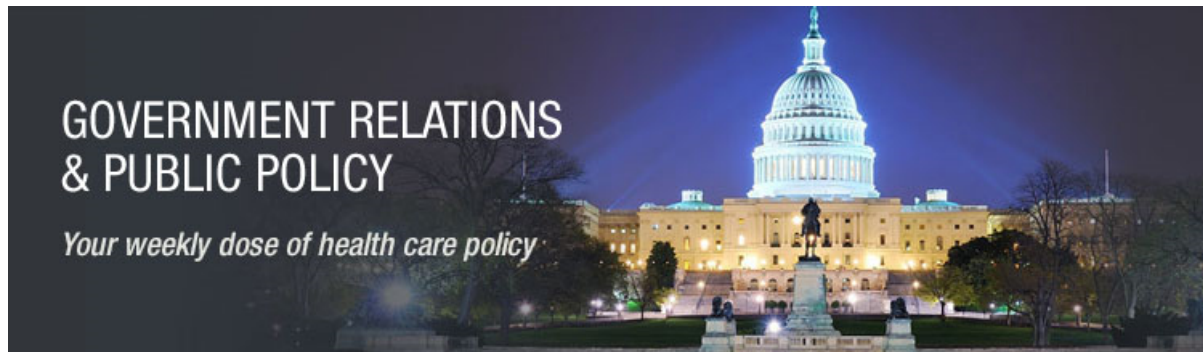


**EDITION:** May 15, 2020



## QUALITY PAYMENT PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Clinicians may now [earn credit](#) in the Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) for participation in a clinical trial and reporting clinical information by attesting to the new COVID-19 Clinical Trials improvement activity.

## HEALTH CARE ACTIVITIES ON THE HILL

There are no current hearings scheduled for next week.

## CONGRESSIONAL

### Congress Slowly Returns to the Capitol

The Senate returned to Capitol Hill last week and the House followed this week. The Capitol and office buildings remain closed for visitors and the bodies are making accommodations for staff to telework. The House is going one step further by voting on [H.Res.965](#) later today to change the House rules for this public health emergency time period to allow virtual Committee proceedings and voting by proxy for those needing to self isolate. Typical constituent and in-person advocacy meetings will be mostly done remotely for the foreseeable future.

### House to Pass Democrat-led COVID-19 Aid Bill

Later this evening, the House is expected to pass the Democratic-led [Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions \(HEROES\) Act](#) (H.R. 6800), a fourth bill intended to aid in the recovery from COVID-19. Although the legislation is expected to pass in the House, it does not have the support of Republicans, some progressive and conservative House Democrats and majority of the Senate.

The House and Senate will likely begin negotiating on another bipartisan COVID-19 stimulus bill in the weeks to come.

## Administration

### CMS Releases Annual Payment Rules

In addition to the ongoing [rules, waivers, and guidance](#) related to COVID-19, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has released its first few payment rules which go into effect October 1, 2020.

- [FY 2021 Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility Prospective Payment System Proposed Rule \(Fact Sheet\)](#):  
Comments due June 15, 2020
- [FY 2021 Hospital Inpatient Prospective Payment System \(IPPS\) and Long Term Acute Care Hospital \(LTCH\) Proposed Rule \(Fact Sheet\)](#): Comments due July 7, 2020
- [FY 2021 Proposed Medicare Payment and Policy Changes for Skilled Nursing Facilities \(Fact Sheet\)](#):  
Comments due June 9, 2020
- [FY 2021 Hospice Payment Rate Update Proposed Rule \(Fact Sheet\)](#): Comments due June 9, 2020
- [FY 2021 Proposed Medicare Payment and Policy Changes for Inpatient Psychiatric Facilities \(Fact Sheet\)](#):  
Comments due June 9, 2020

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