

**EDITION:** July 17, 2020



## COVID-19 Resources

[HLB COVID-19 Resource Center](#)

**HLB Telehealth Webinar July 22, 1:00 EST:** [Legal Considerations with Implementing Sustainable Telehealth Programs During the Pandemic and Beyond](#)

[Slides and Recordings of Previous Webinars](#)

## Congressional

### House Appropriations Passes HHS Funding Bill

On July 13, the House Appropriations Committee advanced the Fiscal Year 2021 Labor-HHS-Education [Funding Bill](#) on a 30-22 party line vote. The legislation provides a \$1.5 billion increase to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) budget, including emergency spending for state and local public health departments. The bill is expected to move to the House floor in the coming weeks where it is likely to pass, but the Senate has not yet released their version of 2021 appropriations. Congress must act to fund the government before September 30, when the current funding expires.

### Energy and Commerce Passes Health Care Bills

On July 15, the House Energy and Commerce Committee

## QUALITY PAYMENT PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Clinicians significantly impacted by the public health emergency may submit an Extreme & Uncontrollable Circumstances [Application](#) to reweight any or all of the Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) performance categories. The PY 2020 is currently open and will close December 31, 2020.

## UPCOMING HEALTH CARE ACTIVITIES ON THE HILL

### House Energy and Commerce Committee

7/21 at 10:00: Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee virtual [hearing](#) titled, "Pathway to a Vaccine: Efforts to Develop a Safe, Effective, and Accessible COVID-19 Vaccine".

**House Ways and Means**

passed [17 health care bills](#) out of committee. These bills cover issues ranging from providing expanded coverage to things like immunosuppressants for transplant patients, strengthening mental health parity and support, enhancing transparency and operability of the Strategic National Stockpile and increasing the safety of food, drugs and medical devices. These bipartisan bills were passed by voice vote and are expected to head to the House floor.

#### **Committee**

7/23 at 2:00: Trade Subcommittee virtual [hearing](#) titled; "Trade, Manufacturing, and Critical Supply Chains: Lessons from COVID-19"

## **Administration**

### **CMS Releases ESRD PPS Proposed Rule**

On July 6, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released the 2021 end-stage renal disease (ESRD) prospective payment system (PPS) [proposed rule](#). The [rule](#) updates the payment rate and expands the transitional add-on payment adjustment for new and innovative equipment and supplies (TPNIES) to include those that can be used for home dialysis. Comments are due September 4.

### **Grandfathered Health Plans Proposed Rule Released**

On July 10, the Internal Revenue Service, Employee Benefits Security Administration, and CMS released their joint Grandfathered Group Health Plans and Grandfathered Group Health Insurance Coverage [notice of proposed rulemaking](#) (NPRM) allowing plans to increase cost-sharing and premiums without losing their status. Comments are due August 14.

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