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GOVERNMENT RELATIONS & PUBLIC POLICY

Your weekly dose of health care policy

Congressional

Congress passes Inflation Reduction Act

On Friday, the House of Representatives passed the Senate-passed [Inflation Reduction Act of 2022](#), legislation under budget reconciliation that includes tax, energy, climate and health care provisions. After months of negotiation and narrowing of the agreement in order to get enough support from Senate Democrats, the following health care provisions were included in the final legislation:

- Extends the ACA tax subsidies for three additional year (through 2025)
- Requires the federal government to negotiate prices for some high-cost drugs covered under Medicare
- Requires drug companies to pay rebates if prices rise faster than inflation for drugs used by Medicare beneficiaries
- Eliminates the 5% coinsurance requirement above the Medicare Part D catastrophic threshold in 2024 and adds a \$2,000 cap on Part D out-of-pocket spending in 2025, along with other Part D benefit design changes
- Implements a \$35 out-of-pocket cap on the cost of insulin for Medicare beneficiaries
- Eliminates cost sharing for adult vaccines covered under Medicare Part D, as of 2023, and improves access to adult vaccines under Medicaid and CHIP
- Expands eligibility for full Part D Low-Income Subsidies (LIS) in 2024
- Further delays implementation of the Trump Administration's drug rebate rule to 2032

UPCOMING HEALTH CARE ACTIVITIES ON THE HILL

The House of Representatives is currently in recess until September 13.

The Senate is currently in recess until will return September 6.

President Biden will sign the legislation later today.

Administration

Monkeypox PHE Declared

On August 4, the Secretary of the HHS, Xavier Becerra made an official [declaration](#) of a Public Health Emergency (PHE) to address the current monkeypox outbreak. The Biden Administration and HHS have briefed the heads of all health care agencies and have expanded its strategy through the White House National Monkeypox Response Coordinator Robert Fenton.

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