Week in Brief

CMS Issues Proposed Rule Updating Medicare Inpatient Prospective Payment System and the Long-Term Care Hospital Prospective Payment System for FY2017; Proposed Rule Shelves the 0.2% Medicare Rate Cut Under the Two-Midnight Policy.

President Obama Signs Three Health Care Bills into Law.
- S. 2512, Adding Zika Virus to the FDA Priority Review Voucher Program Act
- S. 483, Ensuring Patient Access and Effective Drug Enforcement Act of 2016
- S. 192, Older Americans Act Reauthorization Act of 2016

WHITE HOUSE UPDATE

April 20

Vice President Biden Addresses Attendees at the 2016 American Association for Cancer Research Annual Meeting.

April 21

Valerie Jarrett, Senior White House Advisor, Posts Blog on White House.gov Applauding the Older Americans Act Reauthorization.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

April 18

Senate Finance Ranking Member Ron Wyden (D-OR) Laments Committee’s Failure to Consider the Nomination of Dr. Mary Wakefield as Deputy Secretary of HHS.

Senate Veterans’ Affairs Chairman Johnny Isakson (R-GA) and Ranking Member Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) Release Statement on the Senate Confirmation of Michael J. Missal as the VA Inspector General.

April 19

Republican House Energy & Commerce Leaders Sent a Letter to CMS Regarding Concerns about the Administration’s Oversight of ACA Tax Credits.
April 20

House Appropriations Chairman Hal Rogers (R-KY) Releases Statement on Zika Virus Efforts.

House Energy & Commerce Subcommittee on Health Advances 12 Bills to Address the Opioid and Drug Abuse Epidemic.

House Veterans’ Affairs Chairman Jeff Miller (R-FL) Releases Statement Lauding Senate Confirmation of the VA Inspector General and Asks Senators to Act on 21 Veterans-Related Bills Already Passed by the House.

April 21

Senate Finance Chairman Orrin Hatch (R-UT) Announces April 28 Hearing on to Examine Mental Health in America: Where Are We Now?

Senate HELP Ranking Member Patty Murray (D-WA) Delivers Remarks in Support of Higher Wages and Worker Protections for Home Care Workers.

Senators Introduce S. 2832, the Fair Medicare Hospital Payments Act of 2016, a Bipartisan Bill to Address Rural Hospital Payment Issues.

April 21

House Energy & Commerce Committee to Markup 12 Bills Next Week Addressing Opioids and Drug Abuse.

LEGISLATIVE TRACKING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BILL NUMBER/RELATED BILLS</th>
<th>TITLE or SHORT SUMMARY</th>
<th>ORIGINAL SPONSOR(S)</th>
<th>COMMITTEES</th>
<th>LATEST ACTION</th>
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<tr>
<td>S. 185</td>
<td>Promise for Antibiotics and Therapeutics for Health (PATH) Act</td>
<td>Sens. Hatch [R-UT] and Bennet [D-CO]</td>
<td>HELP</td>
<td>Reported out of Committee with an amendment in the nature of a substitute; placed on the Senate Legislative Calendar 4/18/2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S. 2822 / H.R. 5001</td>
<td>To continue the use of a 3-month quarter EHR reporting period for health care providers to demonstrate meaningful use for 2016 under the Medicare and Medicaid EHR incentive payment programs, and for other purposes.</td>
<td>Sens. Portman [R-OH] and Bennet [D-CO]</td>
<td>Finance</td>
<td>Introduced 4/20/2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>S. 2843</td>
<td>To provide emergency supplemental appropriations to address the Zika crisis.</td>
<td>Sens. Nelson [D-FL]; Reid [D-NV]; Schumer [D-NY]; Hirono [D-HI]; Warren [D-MA]; Durbin [D-IL]; Feinstein [D-CA]; Menendez [D-NJ]; Reed [D-RI] and Gillibrand [D-NY]</td>
<td>Appropriations</td>
<td>Introduced 4/21/2016</td>
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<td><strong>H.R. 4977</strong></td>
<td>To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to ensure that each medical facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs complies with requirements relating to scheduling veterans for health care appointments, to improve the uniform application of directives of the Department, and for other purposes.</td>
<td>Rep. Walorski [R-IN-2]</td>
<td>Veterans' Affairs</td>
<td>Introduced 4/18/2016</td>
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<td>H.R. 4969</td>
<td>To direct the CDC to provide for informational materials to educate and prevent addiction in teenagers and adolescents injured playing youth sports and subsequently prescribed an opioid.</td>
<td>Reps. Meehan [R-PA-7]; Kind [D-WI-3]; Rooney [R-FL-17]; and Veasey [D-TX-33]</td>
<td>Energy &amp; Commerce</td>
<td>House Energy &amp; Commerce Subcommittee on Health markup of bill; forwarded to Full Committee 4/20/2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>H.R. 4586</td>
<td>To authorize grants to States for developing standing orders and educating health care professionals regarding the dispensing of opioid overdose reversal medication without person-specific prescriptions, and for other purposes.</td>
<td>Reps. Dold [R-IL-10] and Clark [D-MA-5]</td>
<td>Energy &amp; Commerce</td>
<td>House Energy &amp; Commerce Subcommittee on Health markup of bill; forwarded to Full Committee 4/20/2016</td>
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<td>H.R. 5001 / S. 2822</td>
<td>To continue the use of a 3-month quarter EHR reporting period for health care providers to demonstrate meaningful use for 2016 under the Medicare and Medicaid EHR incentive payment programs, and for other purposes.</td>
<td>Reps. Ellmers [R-NC-2]; Price [R-GA-6]; Blackburn [R-TN-7]; Kind [D-WI-3]; Rush [D-IL-1]; Matsui [D-CA-6] and Lewis [D-GA-5]</td>
<td>Energy &amp; Commerce; Ways &amp; Means</td>
<td>Introduced 4/20/2016</td>
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<td>H.R. 5009</td>
<td>To ensure prompt coverage of breakthrough devices under the Medicare and Medicaid programs, and for other purposes.</td>
<td>Reps. Boustany [R-LA-3]; Neal [D-MA-1]; Bilirakis [R-FL-12] and Cardenas [D-CA-29]</td>
<td>Energy &amp; Commerce; Ways &amp; Means</td>
<td>Introduced 4/20/2016</td>
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**REGULATORY UPDATE**

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**April 18**

National Cancer Institute Launches Online Platform to Gather Stakeholder Input on National Cancer Moonshot Research.

**April 19**

CMS Releases Report and Data on Quality of Care for Racial and Ethnic Minorities in Medicare Advantage Plans.

CMS Issues a Letter to State Medicaid Directors on the *Free Choice of Provider* Requirement in Conjunction with State Authority to Take Action Against Medicaid Providers.
April 20

CDC Releases Finalized Vaccine Information Materials for 9-valent HPV Vaccine.

CMS Delays Release of Hospital Star Ratings until at Least July 2016 in Response to Concern over Fair and Accurate Methodology.

IHS Announces Intent to Request a Comment Period Extension for the Information Collection: Indian Health Service Medical Staff Credentials And Privileges Files.

April 21

CMS Announces Interim Final Rule with Comment Period on a Temporary Exception for Certain Severe Wound Care Discharges from Certain Long-Term Care Hospitals.

CMS Seeks Comments on Patient Relationship Categories and Codes in Accordance with MACRA Requirements; August 15, 2016 Comment Deadline.


Dr. Francis Collins, NIH Director, Releases Statement on Clinical Center Improvement Plan.

April 22

CMS Extends Next Generation ACO Model Letter of Intent Submission Date to May 20, 2016.

FDA Proposes Ban on Electrical Stimulation Devices for Treatment of Self-Injurious and Aggressive Behavior Due to Substantial Psychological and Physical Risks.

HHS Awards Funding to Roche Molecular Systems for a Clinical Trial to Evaluate the Effectiveness of a Blood Donation Screening Test for the Zika Virus.

HHS Extends Nomination Period for Secretary’s Advisory Committee on National Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Objectives for 2030 Until May 2, 2016.

NIH Extends Public Comment Period for the Framingham Heart Study.

JUDICIAL NEWS

April 19

Supreme Court Hears Oral Arguments in Universal Health Services, Inc. v. United States ex rel. Escobar, a Case Concerning the Implied Certification Theory of Liability Under the False Claims Act.
April 14

CRS Releases Insight: Zika Virus: Global Health Considerations.

CRS Releases Report: Zika Response Funding: In Brief.

April 19


GAO Releases Report: Actions Needed to Improve Access to Primary Care for Newly Enrolled Veterans.

UPCOMING EVENTS

CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS/MARKUPS

SENATE

Finance
Mental Health in America: Where Are We Now?
• April 28| 2 p.m.
  215 Dirksen Senate Office Building

Special Committee on Aging
Prescription Drug Price Spikes
• April 27| 3:30 p.m.
  216 Hart Senate Office Building

HOUSE

Energy & Commerce
• April 26| 5 p.m.
• April 27| 10 a.m.
• April 28| 10 a.m.
  2123 Rayburn House Office Building

Democratic Forum on "Achieving Health Equity: The Path Forward"
• April 29| 11 a.m.
  215 House (Capitol Visitor Center

Veterans’ Affairs
Legislative Hearing on Draft Legislation, "To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the appeals process of the Department of Veterans Affairs"
• April 28| 11 a.m.
  334 Cannon House Office Building
Meeting of the Big Data to Knowledge Multi-Council Working Group
Discussion on Big Data to Knowledge activities and newly proposed initiatives.
- April 25 | 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
  Teleconference

Meeting of the Advisory Council for the Elimination of Tuberculosis
Discussion on the recommendations of the USPSTF and on the draft of TB treatment guidelines, among other things.
- April 26 | 10 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
  via webcast

Meeting of the Muscular Dystrophy Coordinating Committee
Update on process relevant to the Action Plan for the Muscular Dystrophies, coordinate activities, and discuss gaps.
- April 27 | 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
  Neuroscience Center
  Conference Room C/D
  6001 Executive Boulevard
  Bethesda, Maryland 20892
  and via webcast

Meeting of the Medicare Evidence Development & Coverage Advisory Committee
Recommendations on the definition of TRD and to advise CMS on the use of the definition of TRD in the context of coverage.
- April 27 | 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
  CMS Main Auditorium
  7500 Security Boulevard
  Baltimore, MD 21244

Meeting of the Advisory Council on Alzheimer's Research, Care, and Services
Consideration of recommendations of subcommittees for updates to the 2016 National Plan and presentations on the Dementia Friendly America campaign, among other things.
- April 29 | 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
  Hubert H. Humphrey Building
  Room 800
  200 Independence Ave. SW
  Washington, DC 20201

Meeting of the National Advisory Board on Medical Rehabilitation Research
Discussion on the NICHDD and NCMRR Director's reports, NICHDD training activities, review of Cerebral Palsy workshop, operationalizing NIH rehabilitation research plan, common data elements in rehabilitation research, and promoting rehabilitation research grant applications.
- May 2 | 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- May 3 | 8:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.
  Bethesda Marriott Suites
  6711 Democracy Boulevard
  Bethesda, MD 20817

National Advisory Council on Drug Abuse
Discussion on announcements and reports of administrative, legislative, and program developments in the drug abuse field.
- May 4 | 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.
  NIH
  Neuroscience Center
  6001 Executive Boulevard
  Rockville, MD 20852
Public Meeting of the Presidential Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues
Discussion on the evolving role of national bioethics advisory bodies and their contributions to health policy as well as perspectives about similar bodies and the future of the Commission.

- May 3 | 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
  Grand Hyatt Washington Hotel
  1000 H Street NW
  Washington, DC 20001

Office of Global Affairs: Stakeholder Listening Session in Preparation for the 69th World Health Assembly
An informal Stakeholder Listening Session to assist the HHS Office of Global Affairs prepares the U.S. delegation for the World Health Assembly.

- May 6 | 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.
  Hubert H. Humphrey Building
  Room 505A
  200 Independence Ave. SW
  Washington, DC 20201
  RSVP required

Meeting of the Advisory Committee on Heritable Disorders in Newborns and Children
Presentations and discussions on newborn screening, long-term follow-up, the Newborn Sequencing in Genomic Medicine and Public Health projects, screening for lysosomal storage disorders, and prenatal education regarding newborn screening bloodspots, among others.

- May 9 | 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- May 10 | 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
  Fishers Lane Conference Center
  Terrace Level
  5635 Fishers Lane
  Rockville, MD 20852
  and via webcast

Meeting of the Advisory Group on Prevention, Health Promotion, and Integrative and Public Health
Provide recommendations and advice to the National Prevention, Health Promotion, and Public Health Council.

- May 9 | 8:45 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- May 10 | 8:45 a.m. - 1 p.m.
  CDC Washington Office
  Room 9000
  395 E Street SW
  Washington, DC 20201
  and via teleconference

Meeting of the Board of Scientific Counselors, National Center for Biotechnology Information

- May 10 | 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.
  National Library of Medicine
  Building 38, 2nd Floor
  The Lindberg Room
  8600 Rockville Pike
  Bethesda, MD 20892

Meeting of the Frederick National Laboratory Advisory Committee to the National Cancer Institute
Discussion on ongoing and new activities.

- May 11 | 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
  National Cancer Institute
  Shady Grove
  Conference Room TE406
  9609 Medical Center Drive
  Rockville, MD 20850
  and via videocast

National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences: Cures Acceleration Network Review Board Meeting
Report from the Institute Director and other staff.

- May 12 | 8:30 a.m. – 2:45 p.m.
  NIH
  Conference Room 10
  Building 31, C Wing
  45 Center Drive
  Bethesda, MD 20892
Understanding the IMPACT Act-Patient and Family Focused for Informed Decision Making
Discussion on the IMPACT act.
- May 12 | 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.
  Teleconference

Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System Public Meeting
Discussion on preliminary coding and payment determinations for new public requests for HCPCS revisions.
- May 17 | 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- May 18 | 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- May 19 | 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- June 1 | 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- June 2 | 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
  CMS Main Auditorium
  Central Building
  7500 Security Boulevard
  Baltimore, MD 21244

National Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases Advisory Council Meeting
Presentation on the Director’s Report and other scientific presentations.
- May 18 | 8:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.
  NIH
  Room 10, Conference Center
  6th Floor, Building 31, C Wing
  31 Center Drive
  Bethesda, MD 20892

National Advisory Council on Migrant Health
Discussion on the services and issues related to the health of migratory and seasonal agricultural workers and their families and formulation of recommendations.
- May 17 | 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- May 18 | 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.
  Hyatt Regency Bethesda
  7400 Wisconsin Avenue
  Bethesda, MD 20814

2015 Mid-Year QRURs Webcast
Overview of the 2015 MYQRURs and explanation of how to interpret and use the information.
- May 19 | 1:30 p.m. – 3 p.m.
  via webcast

Meeting of the National Advisory Council for Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering
Discussion on the report from the Institute Director, presentation of task force reports, and scientific presentation.
- May 19 | 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
  The William F. Bolger Center
  Franklin Building
  Classroom 15/16
  9600 Newbridge Drive
  Potomac, MD 20854

Council of Councils Meeting
Agenda includes NIH updates, Undiagnosed Disease Network, Zika virus, updates from NHGRI, NIH Precision Medicine Initiative Cohort Program; input on the Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research Strategic Plan; update on Common Fund Program.
- May 20 | 8:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.
- May 20 | 2 p.m. – 4:10 p.m.
  NIH
  Conference Room 19
  6th Floor
  Building 31, C Wing
  45 Center Drive
  Bethesda, MD 20892

Meeting of the National Advisory General Medical Sciences Council
Discussion of program policies and issues and the report of the Director, NIGMS.
- May 20 | 8:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.
  NIH
  Conference Rooms E1 & E2
  Natcher Building
  45 Center Drive
  Bethesda, MD 20892
  and via videocast
Meeting of the National Institute of Aging
Board of Scientific Counselors
- May 24 | 8:15 a.m. – 7 p.m.
- May 25 | 8:15 a.m. – 3 p.m.
National Institute on Aging
Biomedical Research Center
3rd Floor Conference Room
251 Bayview Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21224
Select sessions open to the public.

Meeting of the Presidential Advisory Council
on HIV/AIDS
Discussions of Health System
Transformations, the Updated National
HIV/AIDS Strategy, and food as medicine.
- May 24 | 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- May 25 | 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Hubert H. Humphrey Building
Room 800
200 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, DC 20201

National Committee on Vital and Health
Statistics: Subcommittee on Privacy,
Confidentiality & Security Meeting
Gather industry input on existing guidance
and limitations of the de-identification
methodologies of protected health
information to make recommendations to
the Secretary.
- May 24 | 9 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
- May 25 | 9 a.m. – 5:15 p.m.
Hubert H. Humphrey Building
Room 705A
200 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, DC 20201

Meeting of the National Institute of
Neurological Disorders and Stroke
Report by NINDS Director, report by the
Associate Director for Extramural Research,
administrative and program developments,
and overview of NINDS Intramural Program.
- May 26 | 8 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
NIH
Room 10
Building 31, C-Wing, 6th Floor
31 Center Drive
Bethesda, MD 20892

Meeting of the PubMed Central National
Advisory Committee
Meeting to review and analyze systems.
- June 7 | 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.
National Library of Medicine
The Lindberg Room
Building 38, 2nd Floor
8600 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, MD 20892

Meeting of the President’s Cancer Panel
Examination of the cancer drug cost and
access landscape.
- June 10 | 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
New York Hilton Midtown
1335 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10019

National Cancer Institute Clinical Trials and
Translational Research Advisory Committee
Meeting
Discussion of NCI’s strategic clinical and
translational research programs.
- July 13 | 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
NIH
Room 9 and 10
Building 31, C-Wing, 6th Floor
31 Center Drive
Bethesda, MD 20892
and via videocast
Veterans Rural Health Advisory Committee Meeting
Updates from the Chairman and Director of the Veterans Health Administration Office of Rural Health, among other things.

- May 3-4 | 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.
  Building 40, Room 225
  2815 N. Assembly Street
  Spokane, Washington

National Academic Affiliations Council Meeting
Advise the Secretary on matters affecting partnerships between the VA and its academic affiliates.

- May 5 | 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- May 6 | 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
  Department of Veterans Affairs
  The Office of Academic Affiliations
  Conference Room
  1800 G Street NW, Suite 870
  Washington, DC 20006

Special Medical Advisory Group Meeting
Review the potential policy requiring physicians provide a 90 day notification when they leave the VA, *Pay for Performance*, and *best practice dissemination project*.

- May 25 | 8 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
  Department of Veterans Affairs
  Central Office
  810 Vermont Ave. NW
  Room 230
  Washington, DC 20420

National Research Advisory Council Meeting
Notice of National Research Advisory Council Meeting.

- June 8 | 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
  Department of Veterans Affairs
  Room 730
  810 Vermont Ave. NW
  Washington, DC 20420

Clinical Science Research and Development Service Cooperative Studies Scientific Evaluation Committee Meeting
Advise the Chief Research and Development Officer on proposed projects.

- June 29 | 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
  VA
  American Association of Airport Executives
  601 Madison Street
  Alexandria, VA 22314
OTHER

**Prescription Drug Pricing Reforms**
- April 26 | 1 p.m.
  - Center for American Progress
  - 10th Floor
  - 1333 H Street NW
  - Washington, DC 20005

**3rd Annual Wharton DC Innovation Summit**
- April 26 | 8:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.
- April 27 | 8:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.
  - FHI 360
  - 1825 Connecticut Ave. NW
  - Washington, DC 20009

**Pandemics in a Changing Climate: Evolving Risk and the Global Response**
- April 26 | 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
  - The Nitze Building
  - Kenney-Herter Auditorium
  - 1740 Massachusetts Avenue NW
  - Washington, DC 20036