

CAPITOL STREET

August 29, 2024

Health Policy Catalyst Update - Aug. 29, 2024

Monday, September 2

Labor Day Holiday

Tuesday, September 3

Congress is Out of Session (All Week)

Thursday, September 5

MEDPAC Meeting: The Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC) will meet to discuss Medicare provider payment issues. Draft provider pay recommendations are discussed at MedPAC's December meeting and voted on at its January meeting. However, the recommendations are non-binding and merely a guide for Congress and the Administration.

Friday, September 6

Colorado Prescription Drug Affordability Board (PDAB) meeting. The PDAB is undertaking reviews of Stelara (JNJ), Cosentyx (NVS) and Enbrel (AMGN) (see our analysis here).

Monday, September 9

Congress Returns/BIOSECURE Push: Congress returns and House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) is still pushing for a floor vote on a China biosecurity bill (*BIOSECURE*) in late September. The timing coincides with a so-called "China week" in the House where broader tough-on-China policies are expected to be considered (see our analysis here).

Thursday, September 19

Capitol Street Health Policy Seminar: Please join us! Agenda & Registration here

Tuesday, October 1

Start of FY 2025: Deadline for Congress to pass legislation to fund the federal government, including health agencies such as CMS, FDA, and NIH. Lawmakers will almost certainly need to pass a stopgap spending bill (CR) to buy more time to come to an agreement, while continuing funding at current levels and avoiding a government shutdown. Other programs, like the rare pediatric disease priority voucher program (PRV) are also set to expire on Sept. 30, but may need to wait until year-end for reauthorization (see our analysis here).

Tuesday, November 5

Election Day

Mid November-December

Lame Duck Session of Congress/PBM Reform, Telehealth Extension: Funding the federal government is one of several items likely to be addressed during the post-election lame duck session of Congress between mid-November and year-end. We continue to believe certain PBM reforms will likely move as part of this

package (see our analysis [here](#)) along with a two-year extension of Medicare telehealth benefits before expiring on Dec. 31, 2024 (see our analysis [here](#)). Also likely in a year-end package are funding extensions for Medicaid DSH and community health centers along with another one-year freeze of clinical lab payment changes (PAMA) before they go into effect Jan. 1, 2025.

Other healthcare priorities in the mix for lame duck, but are less certain, include site neutral payments, workforce augmentation, miscellaneous extenders (SUPPORT, PAHPA), drug reforms (orphan fix) and addressing drug shortages.

ON THE HORIZON:

- House & Senate back in session (**Sept. 9, 2024**)
 - Second Presidential debate (**Sept. 10, 2024**)
 - Maryland Prescription Drug Affordability Board meeting (**Sept. 10, 2024**)
 - Capitol Street Health Policy Seminar (**Sept. 19, 2024**)
 - ASGCT (Cell & Gene Therapy) Policy Summit (**Sept. 23-24, 2025**)
 - Vance-Walz VP debate (**Oct. 1, 2024**)
 - Start of FY2025 - Expiration of FY2024 funding (**Oct. 1, 2024**)
 - CMS proposed new rates to all hospitals (proprietary & voluntary) start (**Oct. 1, 2024**)
 - NTAP newness start period (**Oct. 1, 2024**)
 - MedPAC meeting (**Oct. 10-11, 2024**)
 - Columbus Day - Federal Holiday (**Oct. 14, 2024**)
 - Final CY24 Medicare Provider Payment Rules - ESRD, Home Health, OPPTS, PFS (**Late October/Early November 2024**)
 - Election Day 2024 (**Nov. 5, 2024**)
 - MedPAC meeting (**Nov. 7-8, 2024**)
 - Veterans Day - Federal Holiday (**Nov. 11, 2024**)
 - FDA Advisory Committee mtg on AI for use in Drug and Biologic devices (**Nov. 20-21, 2024**)
 - Thanksgiving Day - Federal Holiday (**Nov. 28, 2024**)
 - MedPAC meeting (**Dec. 12-13, 2024**)
 - The Biosecurity Commission's report release on anti-China legislation (**Early December '24 through June 2026**)
 - Defense Authorization: funding vehicle for a (tweaked) BIOSECURE Act (**December 2024**)
 - Christmas Day - Federal Holiday (**Dec. 25, 2024**)
 - MedPAC meeting (**Jan. 16-17, 2025**)
 - Inauguration Day (**Jan. 20, 2025**)
 - CMS unveils 2027 negotiated drug list (15 Part D drugs) (**Feb. 1, 2025**) **OUR TAKE ON Top 15 [here](#)**
 - CMS explanation on negotiated drug list (15 Part D drugs) (**March 1, 2025**)
 - MedPAC meeting (**March 6-7, 2024**)
 - MedPAC meeting (**April 10-11, 2024**)
 - CMS Cell & Gene Therapy Model Launch (**Jan. 1, 2025**)
 - CMS MFP Effective for Selected Drugs (**Jan. 1, 2026**)
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