

CAPITOL STREET

September 20, 2024

Health Policy Catalyst Update - The Week Ahead and Beyond

Final Touches on 3-Month CR, GLP-1 Hearing, MA Landscape Files

Monday, September 23

One Week Until Congress Adjourns/CR Deadline: Congress is expected to use its remaining week in Washington to iron out a Continuing Resolution (CR) preventing a government shutdown on Oct. 1.

OUR TAKE: We expect a short-term extension of funding until mid-December will get done, which would allow members to get back on the campaign trail ahead of the November elections. It would also allow for a year-end vehicle for PBM reform and other healthcare measures (see full list below).

Tuesday, September 24

Senate Hearing on GLP-1s: The Senate HELP Committee will hold a 10 a.m. [hearing](#) on “Why Is Novo Nordisk Charging Americans with Diabetes and Obesity Outrageously High Prices for Ozempic and Wegovy?” Novo Nordisk CEO Lars Jorgensen testifies.

OUR TAKE: We do not expect legislation enabling Medicare to cover GLP-1s for obesity to be enacted any time soon and continue to believe NVO’s semaglutide will be on the list for price negotiation for 2027 (see our analysis [here](#)).

Senate Hearing on Women’s Health: The Senate Finance Committee will hold a 10 a.m. [hearing](#) on “Chaos and Control: How Trump Criminalized Women’s Health Care.”

OUR TAKE: This appears to be a political messaging hearing ahead of the November election.

Thursday, September 26

Senate Markup of Health Bills: The Senate HELP Committee will hold a 10 a.m. [markup](#) of S.2305, the “Biosimilar Red Tape Elimination Act”; S.2780, the “Medication Affordability and Patent Integrity Act”; S.4436, the “Protect Infant Formula from Contamination Act”; S.4583, the “Creating Hope Reauthorization Act of 2024”; S.5103, the “Food and Drug Administration Foods Accountability Act”; and the “Medical Graduate Investment Act.”

OUR TAKE: We expect S.4583, the extension of the pediatric rare disease priority review voucher program will pass this year. Other patent and biosimilar reforms (S.2780, S. 2305) appear to be an uphill battle. The markup follows the Senate Judiciary Committee’s passage of their patent reforms, S. 2220, PREVAIL Act and S. 2140, Patent Eligibility Restoration Act.

House Hearing on Medicare Oversight: The House Oversight Health Subcommittee will hold a 2 p.m. [hearing](#) on “Meddling with Medicare: The Biden-Harris Cover-Up.”

OUR TAKE: This appears to be another political messaging hearing ahead of the November election.

Mid-September

Medicare Advantage Landscape Files: CMS late this week is expected to release MA plan landscape files that profile deductibles, premiums and benefits.

OUR TAKE: As MA is increasingly in the crosshairs with payment reductions and coding refinements, we will be interested in fresh data on 2025 MA plan benefits.

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.

OUR TAKE: Lawmakers will almost certainly need to pass a 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

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.

OUR TAKE: 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:

- ASGCT (Cell & Gene Therapy) Policy Summit (**Sept. 23-24, 2024**)
- Vance-Walz VP debate (**Oct. 1, 2024**)
- Start of FY2025 - Expiration of FY2024 funding (**Oct. 1, 2024**)
- CMS new rates to all hospitals (proprietary & voluntary) start (**Oct. 1, 2024**)
- NTAP 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, OPSS, 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**)
- CMS Draft NCD on Transcatheter Tricuspid Valve Replacement (**Dec. 20, '24**)
- The Biosecurity Commission's report release on anti-China legislation (**Early December '24 continued through June 2026**)
- Defense Authorization: funding vehicle for a (tweaked) BIOSECURE Act (**December '24**)
- CMS New Technology Town Hall (**Dec. 11, 2024**)
- Christmas Day - Federal Holiday (**Dec. 25, 2024**)
- CMS Cell & Gene Therapy Model Launch (**Jan. 1, 2025**)
- 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, 2025**)
- CMS Draft NCD on Home Ventilators for COPD (**March 11, 2025**)
- MedPAC meeting (**April 10-11, 2025**)
- CMS Final NCD on Home Ventilators for COPD (**June 9, 2025**)
- CMS MFP Effective for Selected Drugs (**Jan. 1, 2026**)

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