

CAPITOL STREET

September 6, 2024

Health Policy Catalyst Update - September 6, 2024

House BIOSECURE Vote Likely Tuesday, Prez Debate, PBM Oversight, Maryland Drug Board Meets

Monday, September 9

Congress Returns/House Vote on BIOSECURE and CR: Congress returns and a House floor vote is expected on the BIOSECURE Act, coinciding with a so-called “China week” in the House where broader tough-on-China policies are expected to be considered. BIOSECURE appears likely to pass the House, but companion legislation in the Senate remains stalled, likely delaying final passage until early 2025 (see our analysis [here](#)). The CBO recently [predicted](#) the bill would increase spending by less than \$500K.

House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) is also expected to schedule a floor vote extending government funding until March with contentious legislation requiring proof of citizenship to register to vote (SAVE Act). The spending bill will likely be a non-starter in the Democrat-controlled Senate, which instead is expected to pass a “clean” Continuing Resolution (CR), extending current funding until December.

Tuesday, September 10

Presidential Debate: With 60 days until the November elections, the second presidential debate and first between Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Donald Trump is expected on Tuesday. We continue to believe healthcare will be less of a prominent issue this cycle (other than abortion access), but there will likely be some debate around rising medical costs, including medical debt, transparency, and Medicare drug price negotiation under the IRA (see our analysis [here](#)).

Maryland Prescription Drug Affordability Board (PDAB) meeting: The PDAB is undertaking reviews of Farxiga (AZN), Jardiance (BHGR and LLY), Ozempic (NVO), Trulicity (LLY), Dupixent (SNY and REGN), and Skyrizi (ABBV) (see our analysis [here](#)).

House Hearing on FDA Programs: The House Energy & Commerce Health Subcommittee will hold a 10 a.m. hearing on “Evaluating FDA Human Foods and Tobacco Programs.”

House Hearing on COVID: The House Oversight Select Coronavirus Pandemic Subcommittee will hold a 2 p.m. hearing with former Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D-N.Y.) to discuss nursing home deaths during the pandemic. The hearing will likely serve as a venue for political messaging ahead of the November election.

Wednesday, September 11

House Hearing on PBMs: The House Judiciary Administrative State, Regulatory Reform, and Antitrust Subcommittee will hold a 2 p.m. hearing on “The Role of Pharmacy Benefit Managers.”

Mid-September

Medicare Advantage Landscape Files: CMS releases MA plan landscape files that profile deductibles, premiums and benefits each September. 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.

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 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. 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:

- Capitol Street Health Policy Seminar (**Sept. 19, 2024**)
- 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 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 continued through June 2026**)
- Defense Authorization: funding vehicle for a (tweaked) BIOSECURE Act (**December '24**)
- 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**)
- MedPAC meeting (**April 10-11, 2025**)
- CMS MFP Effective for Selected Drugs (**Jan. 1, 2026**)

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