

CAPITOL STREET

September 13, 2024

Health Policy Catalyst Update - The Week Ahead and Beyond

3-Month CR Likely, Telehealth Mark-Up Brings YE Health Package Discussion & Please Join Us In DC Sept 19

Monday, September 16

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

Tuesday, September 17

Senate Hearing on IRA: The Senate Finance Committee will hold a 10 a.m. [hearing](#) on “Lower Health Care Costs for Americans: Understanding the Benefits of the Inflation Reduction Act.” The likely intent of the hearing is for Senate Democrats to tout the IRA’s benefits to voters ahead of the November elections. Witnesses include clinicians and academicians.

Wednesday, September 18

House Markup of Telehealth and PBM Bills: The House Energy & Commerce Committee is expected to hold a full committee markup on a bill to extend pandemic telehealth flexibilities for two years and another requiring PBMs to delink what they are paid from the price of drugs. The Telehealth Modernization Act (HR 7623) is expected to cost \$2B-4B and would at least be partly offset by the PBM bill (see our latest analysis on PBM reform [here](#)). Another potential payfor in a year-end bill is ending or delaying implementation of Medicare’s nursing home minimum staffing rule, which could provide \$22B.

House Hearing on Chronic Diseases: The House Ways & Means Health Subcommittee will hold a 2 p.m. [hearing](#) on “Investing in a Healthier America: Chronic Disease Prevention and Treatment.”

Thursday, September 19

Capitol Street Health Policy Seminar: Please join us! Agenda & Registration [here](#)

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.

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?” 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](#)).

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:

- 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, 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**)
- 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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