

CAPITOL STREET

June 14, 2026

Health Policy Peek: Week of June 15-19

"Healthcare of Tomorrow" Conference w/ CMS Administrator Dr Oz, Drug Negotiation Rules Address Gaming, Senate Markup of Generic & Biosimilar Bills

ICYMI

IRA drug negotiation proposed rule for 2029: Last week, CMS released ([here](#)) 2029 rules which codify the Medicare Drug Price Negotiation Program (as required by law). The rules also proposes to change the Negotiation Program's 'fixed combination' drug policy in 2029+ as a program integrity move, while introducing a "small biotech" floor as the small biotech exception sunsets after 2028. The final rule will be released in Fall 2026 with 2029 selected drugs expected to be announced by February 2027.

OUR TAKE: Fixed dose combo change happens, as a program integrity matter [here](#). We note that most program requirements remain consistent with the 2028 final guidance. On 'fixed combination' drugs, CMS previewed their intent to revisit combo drugs in the 2028 final guidance; our preview is [here](#). CMS is aware that drugmakers might evade Medicare price negotiation by adding a new ingredient, formulation or administration route and have followed through with 2029 policy proposals as a part of their larger waste, fraud, and abuse agenda. CMS is also addressing coverage concerns for negotiated drugs with codification of Part D coverage requirements on negotiated products.

RFK Out in July? HHS on Friday denied a rumor that HHS Secretary RFK Jr will step down shortly after Independence Day ([here](#)).

OUR TAKE: We said in our January 2026 Annual Outlook that we expect agency leadership and staff shake-ups at HHS, likely after the mid-term elections in November, but also possibly before. We have said that CMS Administrator **Mehmet Oz** and HHS Deputy **Chris Klomp** would be strong contenders to step into the role. Both would likely provide a more public health and vaccines friendly environment, if and when HHS leadership changes take place.

WEEK AHEAD

House Out, Senate In

GOP Eyeing Recon 3.0 w/ Healthcare Offsets: Following the June 10 [enactment](#) of Recon 2.0, Congressional Republicans are [discussing](#) a third reconciliation bill focused on affordability and fraud prevention, and potentially funding cost-sharing reductions for insurers ([here](#)) to offset ObamaCare premium increases due to the expiration of enhanced premium tax credits (EPTCs). However, GOP members such as Sens. Collins (R-ME) and McConnell (R-KY) have [expressed](#) doubts, with Sen. Murkowski (R-AL) piling on ([here](#)).

OUR TAKE: We believe Recon 3.0 faces an uphill battle due to a compressed timeline, difficulty securing bipartisan support, and lawmakers' increasing focus on primary elections ahead of the midterms. A lame duck package of healthcare extenders (community health centers, rural hospital provisions) closer to year end is more likely. Codification of MFN is unlikely to be included despite the push from the White House.

ANY DAY NOW

CVS & UNH FTC Agreement/Settlement: A proposed settlement with CVS Caremark was reached in March, with formal details TBA imminently. We could see a potential settlement with Optum soon as well per recent reports. The FTC final 6B report may be delayed to post-CVS and -UNH announcements, or Spring/Summer 2026. We also note that on May 11 UNH's Optum Rx announced plans to decouple PBM profits from manufacturers' list prices (here).

OUR TAKE: We expect CVS and UNH settlements to mirror the CI agreement from February, including transparency requirements, access to TrumpRx, focus on net pricing, and domestic onshoring of GPOs (for UNH), with compliance by Jan 1, 2028. We note that provisions included in the settlement reflect the Administration's priorities. We expect the FTC to continue to use these settlements to advance broader policy priorities as Trump looks to highlight wins with the upcoming mid-terms.

WED, JUN 17

Capitol Street & USNews "Healthcare of Tomorrow" Conf, Featuring CMS Administrator Dr. Oz and CMS Medical Director Dora Hughes + Health System Execs. On **June 17-18, 2026**, at the **Grand Hyatt in Washington, D.C.**, U.S. News in collaboration with Capitol Street will provide conversations with health system executives, leaders, and policymakers, including CMS's Dr. Oz & Dr. Dora Hughes and AMA's Dr. John Whyte, to lead conversations on identifying blind spots in the healthcare ecosystem. **Register here.**

Senate Markup of Healthcare Bills Including Ones Addressing IP (here): The Senate HELP Committee (Chair Cassidy, R-LA) will hold a 10 a.m. markup of eight bills, including research & healthcare program reauthorizations and generic & biosimilar reforms.

OUR TAKE: The markup focuses on relatively low stakes patent and generic reforms that are bipartisan. Bills under consideration include the (1) *Medication Affordability and Patent Integrity Act* (saves \$100 M over 10), which requires brand name drugmakers to attest that any information submitted to FDA relating to patentability is consistent with their submission to the Patent Office, (2) *Ensuring Timely Access to Generics Act* (saves \$207 M over 10), which limits FDA citizen petitions for brand manufacturers, and (3) *Biosimilar Red Tape Elimination Act*, which designates all biosimilars interchangeable upon approval. All three have bipartisan support and the last has a companion bill in the House.

Senate Hearing on China Issues (here): The Senate Aging Committee (Chair Scott, R-FL) will hold a 3:30 p.m. hearing on "Counting the Cost: Communist China's Toll on Older Americans' Health, Finances, and Security." Witnesses include commissioners of the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission.

ON THE HORIZON

- CVS & UNH FTC Agreements/Settlements (**mid-2026**)

- FTC PBM 6B study final report (**may not be released for some time due to pending FTC settlements with CVS & UNH**)
- HRSA 340B rebate pilot (**Summer 2026**)
- DOL final rule on PBM (**Summer 2026**)
- CMS announces DME CBP timeline and launches bidder education (**Summer 2026**)
- CDC ACIP meeting (**June 24-26, 2026**)
- CMS proposed CY27 Outpatient Hospital/ASC, PFS, Home Health, & ESRD rules (**Early July 2026**)
- CMS launch of Medicare GLP-1 Bridge in Medicare (**July 1, 2026**)
- USMCA joint review (**July 1, 2026**)
- USTR hearing on proposed Sec. 301 tariffs (**July 7, 2026**)
- CMS Advisory Panel on Clinical Diagnostic Laboratory Tests (**July 14-15, 2026**)
- CMS final FY27 Inpatient Hospital/LTCH, Psych, IRF, SNF, & Hospice rules (**August 2026**)
- CMS DME CBP bidder registration and bid submission open (**Summer/Fall 2026**)
- CMS Advisory Panel on Clinical Diagnostic Laboratory Tests (**September 15-16, 2026**)
- Start of FY 2027 (**Oct. 1, 2026**)
- CMS launch of GLOBE model in Medicare Part B (**Oct. 1, 2026**)
- CDC ACIP meeting (**Oct. 21-23, 2026**)
- CMS final CY27 Outpatient Hospital/ASC, PFS, Home Health, & ESRD rules (**Early-Nov, 2026**)
- Deadline for CMS to publish 2028 negotiated maximum fair prices (**Nov. 30, 2026**)
- Mid-term elections (**Nov. 3, 2026**)
- CMS CY2027 Clinical Lab Fee Schedule (**Late-December 2026**)
- CMS launch of GUARD model in Medicare Part D (**Jan. 1, 2027**)
- CMS MFP Effective for 2027 Selected Drugs (**Jan. 1, 2027**)
- CMS DME CBP contracts awarded and payment rates announced (**Summer/Fall 2027**)
- FDA PDUFA and MDUFA reauthorization deadline (**Oct. 1, 2027**)
- CMS DME CBP new contracts and rates take effect (**Jan. 1, 2028**)

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