

**EDITION:** April 16, 2021



## COVID-19 Resources

[HLB COVID-19 Resource Center](#)

## Congressional

### Extension of Medicare Sequester Moratorium Becomes Law

The House returned from recess this past Tuesday and quickly passed legislation ([H.R. 1868 - Public Law 117-7](#)) to stave off the 2% Medicare sequester cuts. President Biden signed the bill into law on April 14. The new law extends the moratorium until December 31, 2021. In late March, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid (CMS) said it would hold claims for "a short period" starting April 1, so providers wouldn't face the 2% cuts before lawmakers had a chance to vote on the moratorium extension.

### The House Sends Generic Drug Bills to Biden

This past Wednesday, the House passed and sent the Advancing Education on Biosimilars Act ([S. 164](#)) and the Ensuring Innovation Act ([S. 415](#)) to President Biden's desk. The two bills aim to help increase awareness of biosimilars and provide clarity for drug exclusivity in an attempt to prevent delaying generics from entering the market.

## Administration

### Psychiatric Facilities PPS Proposed Rule Released

On April 7, CMS [released](#) the FY 2022 Inpatient Psychiatric Facilities Prospective Payment System and Quality Reporting

## UPCOMING HEALTH CARE ACTIVITIES ON THE HILL

Senate Health, Education, Labor & Pensions (HELP) Committee

4/22 at 10:00am: Full Committee [hearing](#) on Protecting U.S. Biomedical Research: Efforts to Prevent Undue Foreign Influence

Updates [proposed rule](#). The rule would increase the fiscal 2022 pay for inpatient psychiatric facilities by 2.3% (the same amount the agency did last year). In addition, the proposal plans to modify facilities' quality reporting program by adding a measure that assesses COVID-19 vaccination rates among health care personnel and expands who can provide follow-up care for patients hospitalized with a mental illness. Comments are due June 7, 2021.

### **IRF PPS Proposed Rule Announced**

CMS also [released](#) the Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility (IRF) Prospective Payment System for Federal Year 2022 and Updates to the IRF Quality Reporting Program [proposed rule](#) on April 7. The Agency proposes to increase facilities' fiscal year pay by 1.8%. They received a 2.4% increase in last year's final rule. CMS also proposes to require IFRs to report COVID-19 vaccinations among health care personnel in their facilities beginning in fiscal year 2023. Comments are due June 7, 2021.

### **CMS Releases Hospice Proposed Rule**

On April 8, CMS [announced](#) their FY 2022 Hospice Wage Index and Payment Rate Update, Hospice Conditions of Participation Updates, Hospice and Home Health Quality Reporting Program Requirements [proposed rule](#). The proposal would increase payments by 2.3%, but like last year, providers not meeting the quality reporting requirements will receive a 2 percentage point reduction to their annual market basket. The fiscal year 2021 increase was 2.4%. Comments are due June 7, 2021.

### **SNF Proposed Rule Posted**

The Prospective Payment System and Consolidated Billing for Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNF); Updates to the Quality Reporting Program and Value-Based Purchasing Program for Fiscal Year 2022 [proposed rule](#) was [released](#) by CMS on April 8. The proposal increases SNFs pay by 1.3%, adds two new quality reporting measures in fiscal year 2023, which focus on vaccination rates among health care personnel staff and health care acquired infections. The rule also asks for input on including health equity efforts in the reporting. Comments are due June 7, 2021.

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