

EDITION: February 11, 2022



GOVERNMENT RELATIONS & PUBLIC POLICY

Your weekly dose of health care policy

COVID-19 Resources

[HLB COVID-19 Resource Center](#)

Congressional

House Passes Short-Term Funding

On Tuesday, the House of Representatives passed a continuing resolution (CR), the Further Additional Extending Government Funding Act (H.R. 6617), extending funding for the government through March 11 while a longer-term deal is being negotiated by Senate Appropriators. The Senate is expected to take up the CR before the February 18 funding deadline. With the new deadline, appropriators have a month, with the House in their districts for most of that time, to iron out an agreement on increased funding for defense and non-defense spending.

Administration

MA & Part D Advance Notice Released

On February 2, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released the 2023 Medicare Advantage and Part D [Advance Notice](#) which includes [proposals](#) on new risk adjustment policies in the program and an expected increase in revenue of 7.98 percent. Comments are due March 4 and the Final 2023 Rate Announcement will be published no later than April 4.

Biden's Cancer Moonshot Relaunched

UPCOMING HEALTH CARE ACTIVITIES ON THE HILL

Senate Finance Committee

2/15 at 10:00am ET: Full Committee hearing titled, "[Protecting Youth Mental Health: Part II - Identifying and Addressing Barriers to Care.](#)"

House Energy & Commerce Committee

2/17 at 11:30am ET: Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee hearing titled, "[Americans in Need: Responding to the National Mental Health Crisis.](#)"

On February 2, the White House launched its new [Cancer Moonshot](#) initiative along with a paper from the President's Cancer Panel; "[Closing Gaps in Cancer Screening: Connecting People, Communities, and Systems to Improve Equity and Access](#)". Previously launched in 2016, this new program builds on the progress made and updates goals for the program including:

1. Reducing the death rate from cancer by 50 percent over the next 25 years and
2. Improving the experience of patients and families living with and surviving cancer

Electronic Prior Authorization RFI Posted

On January 21, the Office of the National Coordinator (ONC) for Health IT released a [request for information](#) (RFI) related to electronic prior authorization standards, implementation specifications and certification criteria. Comments are due March 25 and will inform future rule making in this area.

MA & Part D Proposed Rule Released

On January 6, CMS released their CY 2023 Medicare Advantage and Part D [proposed rule](#). The [proposal](#) includes updates to the marketing and communication oversight, network adequacy standards, greater transparency in the Medical Loss Ratio (MLR) reporting, and updates related to the public health emergency (PHE). Comments are due March 7.

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