

**EDITION:** July 16, 2021



## COVID-19 Resources

[HLB COVID-19 Resource Center](#)

## Congressional

### Senate Democrats Announce Budget Agreement

On July 12, Senate Democrats [announced](#) an agreement on a \$3.5 trillion FY 2022 budget resolution framework, which would use the budget reconciliation process in order for Congress to pass legislation presumably later this year. The agreement includes health care priorities such as; adding dental, vision, and hearing to Medicare, closing the Medicaid gap in states that refused to expand, and extending the increased Affordable Care Act (ACA) tax credits from the American Rescue Plan.

The actual policy details have not been released, as they still need to be developed. We can expect a long road ahead before possible passage by Congress.

## Administration

### Biden's Executive Order on Competition

On July 9, President Joe Biden signed an [executive order \(EO\)](#), on "Promoting Competition in the American Economy", impacting many sectors, including health care. The four areas of competition in health care that the EO focuses on are: prescription drugs, hearing aids, hospitals, and health insurance.

### CMS Announces NCD Analysis for Biogen's Aduhelm

## UPCOMING HEALTH CARE ACTIVITIES ON THE HILL

### Senate Health, Education, Labor & Pensions Committee

**7/20 at 10:00am ET:** Full Committee [hearing](#) on "The Path Forward: A Federal Perspective on the COVID-19 Response"

**7/21 at 10:00am ET:** Primary Health and Retirement Security Subcommittee [hearing](#) on "Addressing Disparities in Life Expectancy"

On July 12, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) [announced](#) that they are initiating a national coverage determination (NCD) [analysis](#) for "Monoclonal Antibodies Directed Against Amyloid for the Treatment of Alzheimer's Disease." CMS is accepting public comments until August 11, 2021. They will also be holding two stakeholder calls on [July 22](#) and [July 27](#).

### **CMS Releases PFS Proposed Rule**

On July 13, CMS [released](#) their calendar year (CY) 2022 Medicare physician fee schedule [proposed rule](#). The proposal includes an ongoing review of payment for evaluation and management (E/M) code sets, refinement of their critical care services, and an extension of telehealth services, amongst other policies. Comments are due by September 13, 2021.

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