

EDITION: March 3, 2022



COVID-19 Resources

[HLB COVID-19 Resource Center](#)

Congressional

Congress Passes Public Health Bills

On Monday, the House passed three bills to address addiction, mental health and medical innovation.

- [The Methamphetamine Response Act](#) (S. 854)
- [The Suicide Training and Awareness Nationally Delivered for Universal Prevention Act](#) (S. 1543)
- [The Supporting the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health and the Reagan-Udall Foundation for the Food and Drug Administration Act](#) (S. 1662)

These bills were all already passed by the Senate and will now head to the President's desk, where he is expected to sign.

Administration

Califf Sworn In as FDA Commissioner

On February 15, the Senate confirmed [Robert M. Califf M.D.](#) as the Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) by a vote of 50-46 and was officially sworn in on February 17.

Dr. Califf was previously FDA Commissioner in 2016-2017 under the Obama Administration. This confirmation provides a permanent head of the department, as a great deal of focus on the agency continues.

UPCOMING HEALTH CARE ACTIVITIES ON THE HILL

Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee

3/15 at 10:00am ET: Full Committee hearing on [PREVENT Pandemics Act](#).

MedPAC

3/3-3/4: [March Public Meeting](#)

Direct Contracting Model Redesign

On February 24, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) released a [Request for Applications \(RFA\)](#) for the [Accountable Care Organization \(ACO\) Realizing Equity, Access, and Community Health \(REACH\) Model](#). This is a redesign of the Global and Professional Direct Contracting (GPDC) Model and will transition to ACO REACH on January 1, 2023. CMS also announced the permanent cancellation of the Geographic Direct Contracting Model (Geo) which was previously paused. Current GPDC Model participants must agree to meet all the ACO REACH Model requirements by January 1, 2023 to continue participating in the transitioned ACO REACH model. The redesigned model focuses on CMMI's new strategy focused on accountable care and health equity.

Kidney Care Choices RFA Opened for 2023

On February 28, CMMI announced its [Kidney Care Choices \(KCC\)](#) Model RFA for Performance Years 2023 through 2026. Applications are due March 25, 2022.

Part D Senior Savings Model Accepting Applications

CMMI announced another RFA on February 28, the [Part D Senior Savings \(PDSS\) Model](#) for Calendar Year 2023. The PDSS Model is designed to provide Medicare beneficiaries with new choices of Part D plans that offer insulin at an affordable and predictable price. Applications for Part D sponsors are due April 8, 2022.

National COVID-19 Preparedness Plan Released

Yesterday, President Biden released his [National COVID-19 Preparedness Plan](#), which relies heavily on Congressional funding. The plan's main goals are preventing and treating COVID-19, getting ready for new variants, protecting against lockdowns and furthering global vaccinations.

HOOPER, LUNDY & BOOKMAN, P.C.

Government Relations and Public Policy

401 9th Street NW, Suite 550 Washington, DC 20004 | Telephone 202.580.7700
www.health-law.com | [@HLBHealthLaw](https://twitter.com/HLBHealthLaw)

Copyright © 2021 Hooper, Lundy & Bookman, P.C. All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)