

EDITION: May 14, 2021



COVID-19 Resources

[HLB COVID-19 Resource Center](#)

Congressional

Senate Advances HHS Nominees

On May 11, the Senate confirmed Andrea Palm as the new Health and Human Services (HHS) Deputy Secretary by a vote of 61-37. The following day, the Senate held a procedural vote to discharge Chiquita Brooks-LaSure's nomination as the new Centers for Medicare & Medicaid (CMS) Administrator out of the Finance Committee, since there was a tie in committee due to GOP opposition. The discharge petition came from Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and will require one more procedure vote before final vote in the Senate later this month.

Administration

Administration Requests Information on Equity

On May 5, the Office of Budget and Management (OMB) released a Request for Information (RFI) titled; "[Methods and Leading Practices for Advancing Equity and Support for Underserved Communities through Government.](#)" Recent Executive Orders have charged the OMB to identify effective methods for assessing whether agency policies and actions equitably serve all eligible individuals and communities, particularly those that are currently and historically underserved. Comments are due by July 6, 2021.

CMS Announces LTC COVID-19 Rule

UPCOMING HEALTH CARE ACTIVITIES ON THE HILL

House Oversight and Reform Committee

5/18 at 10:00am: Full committee [hearing](#) on "Unsustainable Drug Prices (Part III): Testimony from AbbVie CEO Richard Gonzalez"

Senate Judiciary Committee

5/19 at 2:30pm: Competition Policy, Antitrust, and Consumer Rights Subcommittee [hearing](#) on "Antitrust Applied: Hospital Consolidation Concerns and Solutions"

Senate HELP Committee

5/20 at 10:00am: Primary Health and Retirement Security Subcommittee [hearing](#); "A Dire Shortage and Getting Worse: Solving the Crisis in the Health Care Workforce"

On May 11, CMS released an interim final rule on [Medicare and Medicaid Programs; COVID-19 Vaccine Requirements for Long-Term Care \(LTC\) Facilities and Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals With Intellectual Disabilities Residents, Client, and Staff](#). The interim final rule with comment period revises the infection control requirements that LTC facilities and intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities must meet to participate in Medicare and Medicaid. Comments are due July 12, 2021.

HOOPER, LUNDY & BOOKMAN, P.C.

Government Relations and Public Policy

401 9th Street NW, Suite 550 Washington, DC 20004 | Telephone 202.580.7700

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