

Significant Health Care Bills Moving Through Congress

October 2, 2017

Sent to President

Passed By Both House and Senate

H.R. 3823, the Disaster Tax Relief and Airport and Airway Extension Act of 2017 – *Passed the House 9/28/17*

- Would deliver temporary tax relief to the victims of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria, extend authorization for the FAA for six months, provide relief for private flood insurance program, and temporarily extend certain health programs.
- Health extensions include graduate medical education programs, the Special Diabetes Program for Indians, and a Medicare at-home immunoglobulin access demonstration project.
- Click [here](#) for more from the Ways and Means Committee.

Passed the House

H.R.2824, Increasing Opportunity through Evidence-Based Home Visiting Act – *Passed the House 9/28/17*

- Reauthorizes the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting program (MIECHV) and extends the program for five-years at the current annual allocation of \$400 million.
- Click [here](#) for Committee Section-by-Section

H.R. 931, the Firefighter Cancer Registry Act of 2017 – *Passed the House 9/13/17*

- Would authorize a \$2 million CDC registry to collect additional data on risk factors and outcomes. The registry must be used to improve monitoring of cancer among firefighters and to collect and publish epidemiological information regarding cancer among firefighters.

Passed by Ways and Means Committee 9/13/17

Click [Here](#) for Markup Information

H.R. 3726, Stark Administrative Simplification Act of 2017

- Builds on legislation passed in July to modernize Medicare's physician self-referral laws, known as "Stark Laws," by creating an alternative pathway to resolve inadvertent technical violations.

H.R. 3727, Increasing Telehealth Access in Medicare (ITAM)

- Allows telehealth services to be included as a basic benefit for Medicare Advantage recipients, rather than a supplemental service.

H.R. 3729, Comprehensive Operations, Sustainability, and Transport Act of 2017

- Extends the current-law add-on payment for ground ambulance transport program for Medicare beneficiaries. It also requires providers to submit annual cost reports to Health and Human Services to better ensure more accurate reimbursements.

Passed Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee 9/13/17

Click [Here](#) for Markup Information

H.R. 1148, the Furthering Access to Stroke Telemedicine Act of 2017

- Would expand the ability of patients presenting at hospitals or at mobile stroke units to receive a Medicare reimbursed neurological consult via telemedicine.

H.R. 2465, the Steve Gleason Enduring Voices Act of 2017

- Would make coverage of speech generating devices under “routinely purchased durable medical equipment” permanent under the Medicare program.

H.R. 2557, the Prostate Cancer Misdiagnosis Elimination Act of 2017

- Would provide for coverage of DNA Specimen Provenance Assay (DPSA) testing for prostate cancer.

H.R. 3120, A bill to reduce the volume of future electronic health record-related significant hardship requests

- Would amend the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act to remove the mandate that meaningful use standards become more stringent over time and allows the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to be more deliberative in such evaluations.

H.R. 3245, the Medicare Civil and Criminal Penalties Act

- Would update both penalties within the Medicare program, many of which have not been updated in 20 years.

H.R. 3263, A bill to extend the Medicare Independence at home Medical Practice Demonstration program

- Would extend the Independence at Home Medical Practice Demonstration Program (IAH), which provides a home-based primary care benefit to high-need Medicare beneficiaries with multiple chronic conditions, ideally allowing them to avoid unnecessary hospitalizations, ER visits, and nursing home use, for two additional years.

H.R. 3271, the Protecting Access to Diabetes Supplies Act of 2017

- Would address several issues beneficiaries have reported facing under the competitive bidding program regarding Diabetes Test Strips (DTS). Among them include: providing enhanced reporting that will aid Congress and CMS in ensuring beneficiaries are receiving the diabetic testing supplies they need to manage their condition.

Passed the Senate

S.920, the National Clinical Care Commission Act

- Would establish within HHS a National Clinical Care Commission to evaluate and make recommendations regarding improvements to the coordination and leveraging of federal programs related to complex metabolic or autoimmune diseases that result from issues related to insulin and represent a significant disease burden (e.g., diabetes).

S. 870, the Creating High-Quality Results and Outcomes Necessary to Improve Chronic (CHRONIC) Care Act of 2017

- Extends the Independence at Home demonstration program;
- Modifies provisions regarding access to home dialysis therapy under Medicare and special needs plans under Medicare Advantage (MA);
- Expands testing of the MA Value-Based Insurance Design test model;
- Allows an MA plan to provide additional telehealth benefits to enrollees and, to chronically ill enrollees, certain supplemental health care benefits;
- Modifies other provisions regarding the use of telehealth services;
- Allow prospective, voluntary assignment of Medicare fee-for-service beneficiaries to accountable care organizations (ACOs); and
- Allow ACOs to operate beneficiary incentive programs.
- Click [here](#) for more on the bill from the Finance Committee

If you have any questions, please contact our policy lead, Devon Seibert-Bailey, at 202-266-2600.