



House and Senate Reach Agreement on Opioid Package

September 27, 2018

The conference agreement reached on September 25 represents the work of 8 House Committees and 5 Senate Committees and more than 100 individual bills. Click [here](#) for the final bill; click [here](#) for a summary prepared by committee staff; click [here](#) for a press release outlining main provisions of the bill.

The House may vote on the final package this week with the Senate vote expected to follow shortly.

One of the more contentious conference items – a House provision that would have made it easier for providers to share a patient’s substance abuse treatment records – was not included in the conference agreement.

Below are sections of the bill that may be of particular interest:

- Section 1003 – Demonstration project for states to increase substance use provider capacity under Medicaid (pages 16-34)
- Section 1009 – CMS to issue guidance on Medicaid substance use disorder treatment via telehealth (pages 55-60)
- Section 2001 – Expanding use of telehealth services for treatment of substance use disorders (pages 77-79)
- Section 2002 – Comprehensive screening for seniors (pages 79-81)
- Section 2003 – Every prescription conveyed securely (pages 82-86)
- Section 2004 – Requiring prescription drug plan sponsors under Medicare to establish drug management programs for at-risk beneficiaries (pages 86-87)
- Section 2005 – Medicare coverage of certain services furnished by opioid treatment programs (pages 87-92)
- Section 2006 – Encouraging appropriate prescribing under Medicare for victims of opioid overdose (pages 92-93)

- Section 3201 – Allowing for more flexibility with respect to MAT for opioid use disorders (pages 18-131)
- Sections 6091-6095 – Combatting Opioid Abuse for Care in Hospitals (pages 271-283)
- Sections 7051-7053 – Jessie’s Law -- requires HHS to develop best practices for displaying patient’s history of opioid abuse in EHR, when requested by the patient; training programs for permitted disclosures. (pages 318-323)
- Section 7081 – Program grants for developing best practices for preventing overdoses in the emergency room (pages 359-368); DSH hospitals and CAHs identified as two entities given preference for grants.
- Section 7091 – Demonstration program grants for emergency department alternatives to opioids for pain management (pages 368-373)
- Section 7121 – Grants to establish comprehensive opioid recovery centers (pages 387-396)
- Section 7181 – State response to the opioid abuse crisis, authorizing \$500,000,000 for each of FY 2019 through 2021 for state grants authorized under the 21st Century Cures Act (pages 455-460)

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