



House Ways and Means Committee Markup June 26, 2019

On June 26, 2019, the House Ways and Means Committee held a markup of several health bills that will extend Medicare programs. All the legislation that was addressed in the markup was ordered favorably to be sent to the House of Representatives. Click [here](#) to review the Markup.

The following bills were reported favorably out of the Committee –

[HR 3417](#) – The Beneficiary Education Tools, Telehealth, and Extenders Reauthorization Act of 2019

HR 3417 is divided into two sections – patient improvements and rural and quality improvements – that both extend Medicare programs. Patient improvements extend Medicare coverage to mental health telehealth services, require prescription drug plan sponsors to include real-time benefits, and require retroactive part D coverage for certain low-income Medicare patients. Rural and quality improvements extend the geographic index floor, extend funding for quality measure endorsement, input, and selection, and improve skilled nursing facility value-based purchasing program within Medicare. HR 3417 passed with a unanimous roll call vote of 41-0.

[HR 3429](#) – The HEARTS and Rural Relief Act

HR 3429 will modify requirements for former members of the Armed Forces who were eligible for Medicare Part B to be eligible for TRICARE for Life instead. The other portions of the bill will require at least one ambulatory surgical center representative to improve payment transparency, exclude complex rehabilitative manual wheelchairs from the Medicare competitive acquisition program, and extend supervision requirements for outpatient therapeutic services in CAH and rural hospitals through 2021. HR 3429 passed by a voice vote.

[HR 3436](#) - The Improving Chronic Care Management Act

This Act removes the cost-sharing responsibilities for chronic care management under Medicare beginning in January 2021. HR 3436 passed along party lines, except for Rep. Reed (R-NY 23), with a roll call vote of 24-14.

[HR 3414](#) – The Opioid Workforce Act of 2019

HR 3414 increases full-time equivalent resident limit, for qualifying hospitals, to 1000 that will be distributed to hospitals with established programs in addiction medicine, addiction psychiatry, or pain medicine. 500 of these positions may be distributed for FY 2022 and then the remaining 500 to be distributed during the period of FY 2023 – FY 2026. After a 5-year period, the Secretary may determine if the hospitals meet necessary requirements for the increased resident limit and may be reduced to the original limit. HR 3414 passed along party lines, except for Rep. Buchanan (R- FL 16) and Rep. Kelly (R-PA 16), with a roll call vote of 25-12.

[HR 3439](#) - The Protecting Access to Information for Effective and Necessary Treatment (PATIENTS) Act of 2019

This Act amends section 9511, 4375(e), and 4776(e) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and section 1183(a)(2) of the Social Security Act to be renewed until 2026. The Act also amends section 1181(d)(1)(A) of the Social Security Act to include substance use, mental health, and maternal morbidity and mortality as national priorities for research. HR 3439 passed along party lines, except for Rep. Reed (R-NY 23), with a roll call vote of 26-15.