House To Take Up Five-Year Extension Of CMS Hospital At Home Waivers Next Week

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In a win for digital health and hospital advocacy groups, House lawmakers will consider a five-year extension of CMS' Acute Hospital Care at Home (AHCAH) program under suspension of the rules sometime next week, according to a Congressional Budget Office notice posted Tuesday (Nov. 25).

Currently, the AHCAH program is set to expire on Jan. 30, 2026, unless Congress acts. During the recent government shutdown, hospitals nationwide temporarily and permanently ended hospital-at-home care for patients because the AHCAH program lapsed.

"We are thrilled to see the House will vote on a 5-year extension. It's a recognition we need to decouple this from government funding," Krista Drobac, founder of Moving Health Home, wrote to *Inside Health Policy*.

Lawmakers are specifically set to consider the Hospital Inpatient Services Modernization Act (H.R. 4313), a bipartisan bill unanimously advanced by the House Ways & Means Committee in September.

The bill would extend the AHCAH program through Sept. 30, 2030, and require CMS to submit a study on the program to Congress by Sept. 30, 2028. The study would analyze the hospital-at-home programs' patient selection criteria, quality of care, costs and other data points, according to the bill text.

CBO estimates the bill would affect federal spending by less than $500,000, though it's unclear if that would be an increase or decrease. CBO says the bill would not change federal revenue.