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**FEBRUARY 10, 2020**

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*Welcome to America's Physician Groups' "Healthcare on the Hill," where you can get the latest on healthcare happenings in our nation's capital--and with a special focus on the value-based care movement. Here's what you will find in this edition:*

- *APG Members Go to Washington*
- *CMS Releases MA Advance Notice Part II and MA Proposed Rule*
- *Competing Surprise Billing Legislation*
- *CMMI Guard Rail Proposal*
- *APG Helps You Decipher Your Data*
- *Register for APG's Annual Conference 2020 in San Diego!*

*Think someone else may enjoy "Healthcare on the Hill?" **Forward this email and have them click [here](#) to be added to our subscription list.** And remember, you can always visit our [website](#) for more news and resources.*

*Valinda Rutledge  
Senior Vice President of Federal Affairs  
America's Physician Groups*

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## **APG Members Go to Washington**

This week, several APG board members flew to DC to meet with members of Congress and the Administration to share successes in their participation in Medicare Advantage (MA) and discuss CMMI's new models.

The team met with members of Senators Pelosi's and McConnell's office, along with CMS senior staff on Direct Contracting, Primary Care Models, and MA.

## **Administration**

### **CMS Releases Medicare Advantage Advance Notice Part II and MA Proposed Rule**

On February 5, CMS released both the [Part II proposed Rate Notice](#) (comments on the Rate Notices are due March 6) and the [MA proposed rule](#) on policy changes (comments due April 6) to strengthen and modernize the MA and Part D prescription drug programs.

Key Aspects:

- The proposed rate notice is expected to increase the plans' revenue by 0.93 percent as opposed to 2.53 percent in 2020
- Allows beneficiaries to compare their out-of-pocket payments for different prescription drugs through a real time benefit tool
- Expands the use of telehealth in Network Adequacy standards
- CMS describes payment methodology for 2021 MA ESRD populations

APG will host a **Deep Dive Webinar on Tuesday, March 10 at 2:00 pm ET that will cover both [Part I](#) and [Part II](#) of the MA Rate Notice as well as the [proposed rule](#) on policy changes in MA.** You can register for the webinar [here](#).

## **Congress**

### **Competing Surprise Billing Legislation**

On February 7, the House Education and Labor Committee released their "[Ban Surprise Billing Act](#)" focusing on protecting patients from surprise billing and using median in-network rates and independent dispute resolution for out of network providers for amounts above \$750. The Committee will consider the legislation in a formal markup on Tuesday, February 11. The bill is similar to legislation previously considered by the Energy and Commerce Committee, which is preferred by plans.

The House Ways and Means Committee also decided to move forward with a competing proposal and release their "[Consumer Protections Against Surprise Medical Bills Act of 2020](#)" that would end surprise billing for out of network services and puts protections in place to protect patients. Ways and Means bill outline a two-step process to resolve payment disputes between plans and providers. In an initial 30-day period, both parties would attempt resolution and be required to share certain information. If the two parties cannot reach resolution, they can opt to use a mediated dispute resolution process with an independent arbiter who will consider each party's best offer, along with supporting information, and the contracted rate specific to the plan, and for similar providers, services, and geographic area. Many providers prefer this approach.

Speaker Pelosi has indicated that all House Committees need to conclude Committee action on surprise billing in February. It's expected that providers and plans will be discussing their viewpoints with the various committees this week.

#### **CMMI Guard Rail Proposal**

On February 3, Representatives Terri Sewell (D- AL), Adrian Smith (R-NE), Tony Cardenas (D-CA), John Shimkus (R-IL), Brad Wenstrup (R-OH) and Kurt Schrader (D-OR) introduced the "[Strengthening Innovation in Medicare and Medicaid Act](#)" that would limit the CMMI from developing demonstration projects to less than five years and limit participants to a number needed to be statistically valid. As you know, CMMI's mission is to design, test, and implement new healthcare payment models so this legislation has potential to limit their scope.

#### **APG Host Deep Dive Webinar "Using Data Analytics to Achieve Success in Risk-Based Contracts"**

[Register today](#) for **America's Physician Groups** and **CareJourney's Deep Dive Webinar on Data Analytics** scheduled on **Thursday, February 27 from 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm ET.**

We have gathered a set of experts who will help you not only make sense of data but also use it to build better networks, track referrals, benchmark providers, and improve performance in risk-based contracts.

Joining me on the webinar will be **Aneesh Chopra, President of CareJourney**, who will lead a discussion with industry experts to help you overcome those roadblocks and find the pathway to success in value-based care. Learn how the nation's leading

health providers are tackling these everyday challenges as they share best practices, lessons learned, and tips to:

- Build better networks
- Optimize existing network performance
- Identify best practices and best/worst performing providers for inclusion/exclusion
- Identify and minimize network leakage

Hear from our expert panelists:

**Steve Neorr**, Chief Administrative Officer, Triad HealthCare Network

**Anas Daghestani**, President and CEO, Austin Regional Clinic

**Adrienne Wagner**, Vice President, Quality Improvement, The Everett Clinic

**Melanie Matthews**, CEO, Physicians of Southwest Washington

### **APG Annual Conference 2020**

**Register for APG's Annual Conference**

[Register today](#) for **America's Physician Groups Annual Conference 2020 The Value Movement Grows Up: What's Next? May 28-30 in San Diego**. With some of the nation's foremost speakers covering the issues that matter to you, this Conference is a can't miss for anyone engaged in value-based care.

Here are just a few of the sessions you'll find at Annual Conference 2020:

- Innovations in Hospital at Home Programs
- Artificial Intelligence in Action: Applying AI and ML at the Point-of-Care
- Understanding the Ins and Outs of the Direct Provider Contracting Model
- Primary Care Reimagined: How to Change Operations to match a Value-Based System
- What Employers Want
- And much more!

**REGISTER NOW!**

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