



June 16, 2020

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.

As our nation--and the world--continues to face the many challenge presented by COVID-19, we are working to ensure you have the very latest information on the virus and our rapidly changing healthcare landscape.

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APG Sends Letters to Senate on Telehealth

Today, APG sent two letters to the [Senate Committee on Finance](#) and the [Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions \(HELP\)](#) stressing the importance of telehealth services and advocating for the continuation of flexibilities for them past the current ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency. Both Congress and federal agencies have extended access to telehealth in response to the ongoing pandemic, but statutorily many of these flexibilities cannot be made permanent. In the letter addressed to Senate Finance, APG makes the case for making these changes permanent considering the increased importance of telehealth services. The HELP committee will be holding a [hearing](#) on Wednesday, June 17 at 10am EDT on telehealth during the COVID-19

pandemic.

MedPAC Releases June Report

On June 15, the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC) released its June 2020 *Report to the Congress: Medicare and the Health Care Delivery System*. The Commission, which advises Congress on issues affecting the Medicare programs, made the following recommendations:

- Continue moving the Medicare program away from traditional fee-for-service payment approaches and develop new payment models that promote the use of value-based payment
- Determine an ACO's historical baseline spending with the clinician national provider identifiers used to compute the ACO's performance year spending rather than TINs
- Replace Medicare Advantage's Quality Bonus Program with an MA-Value Incentive Program that would:
 - Score a small set of population-based measures
 - Evaluate quality at the local market level
 - Use a peer-grouping mechanism to account for differences in enrollees' social risk factors
 - Establish a system for distributing rewards with no "cliff" effects
 - Distribute plan financed rewards and penalties at the local market level

You can find the fact sheet [here](#).

Senate Finance Committee Leaders Sends Letter to HHS to Release Additional Funding

On June 11, Senate Finance Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley (R-IA) and Ranking Member Ron Wyden (D-OR) sent a [letter](#) to Alex Azar, Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) calling for agency to distribute the remaining \$65 billion from the Provider Relief Fund to health care providers for the much-needed fight against the COVID-19 crisis. Grassley and Wyden stated in the letter "We write to you today regarding the need for increased transparency of funds distributed to health care providers during the COVID-19 emergency. Congress has dedicated significant resources needed to help providers deal with the dire consequences of this unprecedented situation," Grassley and Wyden wrote. "We urge you to expeditiously establish a single, comprehensive and publicly available data source that easily shows the amount of funding received by each provider." The letter also asked the agency to issue details for providers receiving the funds for more transparency.



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