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**February 9, 2021**

*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 challenges presented by COVID-19, we are working to ensure you have the very latest information on the virus and our rapidly changing healthcare landscape.*

*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**  
**Executive Vice President of Federal Affairs**  
**America's Physician Groups**

### **Senate Finalizes Power Sharing Agreement**

Last week, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and Minority Leader Mitch McConnell reached a power-sharing agreement dictating the operation of the Senate chamber. The deal passed unanimously by voice vote and largely conforms to the 2001 agreement that was put in place when the Senate was last evenly split. The agreement had been delayed due to disagreement over preserving the legislative filibuster, but was resolved when Senators Joe Manchin (D-WV) and Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ) said that they would not

support ending the legislative filibuster now. The agreement:

- Sets committee membership ratios at 50-50
- Gives the committee chairs to the Democrats
- Establishes a procedure by which the majority or minority leader can bring a measure to the Senate floor that failed to be reported out of committee due to a tied vote

### **Senate Approves Provider Relief Fund Amendment**

Late last week, the Senate agreed to add a bipartisan amendment sponsored by Senators Susan Collins (R-ME) and Joe Manchin (D-WV) to the budget resolution that creates a deficit-neutral reserve fund to replenish the Provider Relief Fund with a goal number of \$35 billion in total with 20 percent of the money set aside for rural hospitals. A group of Republican Senators urged President Joe Biden to include the provision during their meeting regarding the COVID-19 package. The budget resolution, which passed on party lines early last week, paves the way for Democrats to use the budget reconciliation process to pass COVID-19 relief legislation in the coming weeks. The amendment could now be included in the \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 package as the legislation is written in committee.

### **APG Signs onto Letter Urging Congress to Extend the Medicare Sequester Moratorium**

Last week, APG along with over forty other healthcare organizations signed a [letter](#) urging Congress to extend the COVID-19 PHE package to the end of 2021. Late December, Congress reached an agreement on a new COVID-19 relief package that totaled nearly \$900 billion. One of the funding packages extended the Medicare Sequestration moratorium to March 31, 2021. In our letter, we urged Congress to extend this package through the end of 2021 to continue to help providers meet the challenges that lie ahead.

### **APG and CareJourney Host a Deep Dive Webinar on Direct Contracting**

There is still time to registration for APG's and CareJourney's webinar on the "***The Five W's of the DCE Model: What You Need to Know***".

**Tuesday, February 16 from 12:00 pm to 1:15 pm ET.**

[Register here](#)

Do you break out in a sweat at the idea of moving your organization to a Direct Contracting Model? Have you thrown up your hands and not applied because it all seems far too complicated and too risky? Stop. Before you make any decisions about whether or not to

participate in a Direct Contract Entity (DCE), you should register for this [must-attend webinar](#) to understand the Who, What, Why, When, and Where of the DCE Model. Our lineup of Gold Star experts will demonstrate the value of this sophisticated payment model and teach you the key decision points to consider before deciding to go forward in a Professional, Global, or Geographic Model. If you are one of the organizations that has struggled under fee-for-service during the COVID-19 pandemic, you definitely should not miss this webinar!

**Aneesh Chopra**, President of CareJourney, and **Valinda Rutledge**, Executive Vice President of Federal Affairs for America's Physician Groups will host an exciting speaker lineup:

**Pauline Lapin**, Director, Seamless Care Models Group at CMS Innovation Center  
**Dr. Robert Stone**, Senior Medical Director, Central Ohio Primary Care  
**Raj Shrestha**, CEO, Castell, an Intermountain Healthcare Company  
**Melanie Matthews**, CEO, Physicians of Southwest Washington  
**Gary Jacobs**, Executive Director, VillageMD Center for Public Policy

**Our panel will cover:**

- Brief overview of the 3 types of Direct Contracting Models (Professional, Global, Geographic):
    - Timeline, stages, and organizational archetypes
    - How to address health equity
  - Key data elements and metrics critical to making optimal strategic decisions:
    - Providers to consider for contracting agreements
    - Identifying actionable opportunities for quality improvements
  - How to take advantage of DCE and other CMS initiatives like interoperability to:
    - Reveal patient- and provider-level insights
    - Initiating the appropriate care intervention opportunities
    - Lessons learned from experienced APG and CareJourney members on how they approached the decision whether to participate
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