



January 21, 2022

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 continues to face many challenges, we are working to ensure you have the very latest information on 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***

Congress Continues Work on Major Legislation as Spending Deadline Looms

Despite recent statements from Senators Joe Manchin (D-WV) and Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ) signaling their opposition to changing rules surrounding the filibuster, the Senate reconvened in Washington to try to pass voting rights legislation. However, the Senate struck down a motion to change filibuster rules and advance a voting rights package by a 52-48 vote with Senators Manchin and Sinema joining Senate Republicans.

The Democrats will try to regroup on Build Back Better, as well as addressing the February 18th deadline on funding for the federal government. Appropriations Committee leaders in the House have begun negotiating the contents of an omnibus bill to fund the government in advance of the February deadline with Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) stating that Democrats are considering adding Covid-19 relief to a funding bill. APG has been advocating on Capitol Hill for the inclusion of permanent telehealth waivers in a potential omnibus bill, a possibility that is being discussed as the Congressional offices work on drafting legislation.

PHE and Covid Telehealth Waivers Extended

Last Friday, Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra signed a renewal of the Public Health Emergency (PHE) Declaration for an additional 90 days as the Omicron variant continues to spread. The PHE was set to expire last Saturday, including its waivers loosening restrictions around telehealth services, nursing home staff training, three-day hospital stays, and Medicaid eligibility. In a statement, Becerra stated, “to end these flexibilities now would be detrimental to patient access and care, especially at a time when the Omicron variant is wreaking havoc on our healthcare system.”

Despite their temporary extension, APG is continuing to work with other industry stakeholders in an effort to make the telehealth waivers permanent.

Guidance on How to Get at Home Over the Counter Covid Tests

Last week, the Department of Health and Human Services, along with the Department of Labor, issued a [FAQ](#) providing guidance on how consumers can get at home over the counter Covid tests for free. The FAQ provides answers for how to obtain tests, whether payment for tests are required, and how to submit a claim to your insurance company for reimbursement if you are charged for tests.

APG's Deep Dive Webinar on a Policy Outlook in the Year Ahead

2022 has seen the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic continue for providers nationwide as the realm of federal policy has new issues surfacing on the horizon including the implementation of CMMI's new Strategic Plan and the pending approval of value-based payment models. These new issues include the Direct Contracting pilot program, the sudden pause of President Joe Biden's Build Back Better spending bill, and the annual release of CMS' regulations like the Medicare Advantage and Part D proposed rule.

Join me and Garrett Eberhardt, APG's Director of Federal Affairs for a **deep dive webinar** for a look at all of these **potential policy changes in 2022** and how best to prepare your organizations and providers for what's to come in the year ahead.

Additionally, last week, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released the [Contract Year 2023 Policy and Technical Changes to the Medicare Advantage \(MA\) and Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit \(Part D\) Programs](#) proposed rule. The rule makes numerous changes to the Part D and MA programs. A fact sheet on the proposed rule can be found [here](#). **We will review this proposed rule.**

Deep Dive Webinar on a Policy Outlook in the Year Ahead

Wednesday, February 9 at 2:00 - 3:00 pm ET

REGISTER [HERE](#)

Free Registration for CMS Updates on Medicare and Medicaid Reform and CMMI Payment Reform Updates

On Monday, January 24 and Wednesday, January 26, during Health Care Value Week (January 24-28) virtual presentations by the following will be featured: Elizabeth Fowler, JD, PhD, CMS Innovation Center Director & CMS Deputy Administrator; Dora Hughes, MD, MPH, Chief Medical Officer, CMS Innovation Center; Pauline Lapin, MHS, Director, Seamless Care Models Group, CMS Innovation Center; Ellen Lukens, MPH, Group Director, Policy & Programs Group, CMS Innovation Center; Purva Rawal, PhD, Chief Strategy Officer, CMS Innovation Center; Christina S. Ritter, PhD, Director, CMS Patient Care Models Group; Meena Seshamani, MD, PhD, Director, CMS Center for Medicare; and Daniel Tsai, Deputy Administrator and Director, Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Register here at no cost: <https://valuebasedpaymentsummit.com/registration/>.

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