

HEALTH MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATES

HMA Weekly Roundup

Trends in Health Policy

..... August 11, 2021



RFP CALENDAR
HMA News

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IN FOCUS

SENATE INFRASTRUCTURE BILL HAS BOTH DIRECT, INDIRECT IMPACT ON U.S. HEALTH CARE SYSTEM, LEAVITT PARTNERS ANALYSIS SHOWS

President Biden and Senator Majority Leader Schumer have been pursuing a two-track strategy to advance major policy objectives in 2021. The first track, the bipartisan “Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act,” passed the Senate 69-30. Attention now turns to the House, where Speaker Pelosi has indicated she will not consider the bill until the Senate passes a Democratic-only reconciliation bill – which is the second track in Democrats’ policy strategy. While the Senate vote reflects a major bipartisan milestone, the bill still faces a trip through the House of Representatives before it gets to President Biden’s desk.

Although the bill focuses on traditional or “hard” infrastructure, there are both direct and indirect impacts on U.S. health care. The bill includes money for broadband improvements that will directly improve the infrastructure needed for telehealth and digital health initiatives. It also levies a new “refund” on certain Medicare Part B drugs and changes some COVID-19 related tax programs.

Key Health Care Measures in Proposed Bill (updated bill text [here](#))

- Contains tens of billions of dollars for broadband infrastructure improvements (Division F). These funds would expand access to affordable and reliable broadband service, which is expected to help improve the reach of telehealth services.
- Includes “Buy America” directives to ensure that public infrastructure projects and projects using federal funds use American-made products and materials. This preference extends to the purchase and use of American-made products and materials generally, including government contracts for the purchase of personal protective equipment (PPE) (Division G, Title IX).
- Hits pause on implementing the “HHS Rebate Rule” – the 2020 final rule to eliminate an anti-kickback statute safe harbor protection for prescription drug rebates (Division I).
- Creates a new manufacturer “refund” for certain Medicare Part B drugs, starting in 2023, for single-use or single-dose products that were discarded (Division I).
- Extends or ends various COVID-19-related programs intended to help families and businesses. Under this bill, the employee retention tax credit (which is currently set to expire on December 31, 2021) would end on September 30, 2021. The bill rescinds \$13.5 billion in unobligated funds made available for the Small Business Administration (SBA) Disaster Loan Program Account, as well as \$17.5 billion made available for targeted Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) advances through the SBA (Division H).
- Makes investments in drinking water and wastewater infrastructure (Division E).

As the bill would deliver billions of dollars to states, the initiative also has an indirect effect on state budgets as they make Medicaid and CHIP funding decisions relative to other important priorities. It is too early to articulate how this will affect state revenues, but this will be important to track closely. Note that some of the early COVID-19 relief funds disbursed to states in 2020 had a significant impact on overall revenue calculations, so it should be expected that this too could change the budget calculus.

As for the second track, the debate on the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Resolution to advance a \$3.5 trillion reconciliation bill is officially under way. Details of the reconciliation bill will be the subject of intense negotiations among President Biden and Congressional Democrats, but the bill could include policy related to making the ACA premium credits permanent; adding a dental, vision, and hearing benefit to Medicare; expanding access to home- and community-based services; introducing new rules on drug pricing; and

expanding Medicaid coverage or Medicaid-like coverage in non-expansion states, among other policies.

Look for the legislative process surrounding Tracks 1 and 2 to continue into the fall and possibly winter. Our colleagues at Leavitt Partners, who recently joined the HMA enterprise, are following these and other health care priorities through D.C. Direct, a subscription federal policy intelligence service with weekly webinars and analyses that help you focus your attention on the federal health policy issues that matter most. More information on D.C. Direct can be found [here](#).



HMA MEDICAID ROUNDUP

Florida

Florida Officials Offer Few Details on Implementation of Medicaid Postpartum Coverage Extension. *The Orlando Sentinel/News Service of Florida* reported on August 10, 2021, that Florida health officials have not disclosed when the Medicaid postpartum coverage extension will be implemented or how the nearly \$240 million earmarked for the policy change will be allocated to providers. The Florida House previously approved a fiscal 2022 budget bill that includes funding to extend Medicaid postpartum coverage from two months to a full year. [Read More](#)

Florida Economists Predict Medicaid Enrollment to Top 5 Million in Fiscal 2022. *The Tampa Bay Times* reported on August 5, 2021, that Florida economists predict that Medicaid enrollment in the state will reach 5.04 million by the end of fiscal 2022, up from 4.5 million at the end of fiscal 2021. The new enrollment projections are four percent higher than those used by lawmakers to direct about \$35 billion in state and federal dollars to Medicaid in the fiscal 2022 budget. Economists expect enrollment to decline when the public health emergency ends. [Read More](#)

Mississippi

Mississippi Advocates Push Back Against State Claims of Medicaid Fraud. *Mississippi Free Press* reported on August 6, 2021, that advocacy groups are pushing back against a Mississippi [report](#), which suggests that up to five percent of state residents are receiving Medicaid benefits fraudulently. According to American Civil Liberties Union of Mississippi executive director Jarvis Dortch, the audit did not verify whether potential fraud cases from 2018-19 were in fact fraud. "Just because two years earlier you didn't qualify for Medicaid...that doesn't mean you don't qualify at this moment," Dortch said. [Read More](#)

Missouri

Judge Orders Immediate Implementation of Medicaid Expansion. *The Joplin Globe* reported on August 10, 2021, that Missouri Cole County Circuit Judge Jon Beetem ordered the state to immediately implement Medicaid expansion, allowing eligible individuals to enroll without further delays. State officials had asked the judge for two months to implement expansion. [Read More](#)

Missouri Official Asks Judge for Two Months to Implement Medicaid Expansion. *MissouriNet* reported on August 9, 2021, that Missouri is seeking two months to implement voter-approved Medicaid expansion, including time to hire employees and prepare computer systems to process applications. Missouri Solicitor General John Sauer made the request to Cole County Circuit Court Judge Jon Beetem. Medicaid expansion is expected to cover an additional 275,000 individuals. [Read More](#)

Montana

Montana to Increase Eligibility Audits for Medicaid Beneficiaries. *Montana Public Radio* reported on August 10, 2021, that the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services is finalizing a proposal that would increase the frequency of Medicaid eligibility audits. The proposal aims to comply with an approved budget bill that ends 12-month continuous eligibility. [Read More](#)

Montana Expects Federal Regulators to Reject Medicaid Expansion Work Requirements. *Kaiser Health News* reported on August 5, 2021, that Montana expects federal regulators to reject the state's request for Medicaid expansion work requirements. According to a Montana Medicaid waiver amendment application, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) informed the state that "a five-year extension of the Medicaid expansion waiver will not include work/community engagement requirements." The Montana Medicaid expansion program would end in 2025 without legislative renewal. Waiver negotiations with CMS are expected to be finalized by the fall. The state is also waiting for approval on proposals that would raise expansion enrollees' premiums and end a provision that allows 12 months of continuous eligibility regardless of changes in income. [Read More](#)

Pennsylvania

HMA Roundup – Julie George ([Email Julie](#))

Pennsylvania to Receive \$1.2 Million for Maternal, Child Health. The Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (DHS) announced on August 6, 2021, that the state will receive \$1.2 million in federal funding over five years to support the health and well-being of children, pregnant women, and families. Funds are expected to go to the Office of Child Development and Early Learning, Children's Health Insurance Program, and other programs. [Read More](#)

Pennsylvania to Extend Medicaid Postpartum Coverage From 60 Days to Full Year. Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf announced on August 5, 2021, that the state will extend Medicaid postpartum coverage from 60 days to a full year, effective April 1, 2022. The additional coverage is aimed at providing continuity of care for mothers, promoting maternal health outcomes, and addressing a rise in maternal mortality rates. [Read More](#)

Tennessee

Tennessee Medicaid Block Grant Waiver Is Open for Public Comment. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) on August 10, 2021, opened public comments on the special terms and conditions of the final version of Tennessee's Medicaid block grant waiver, TennCare III. The waiver would convert federal Medicaid funding to a lump sum and give the state more flexibility to alter its Medicaid program. The federal public comment period will be open through September 9, 2021. [Read More](#)

Virginia

Virginia Sees Rise in Utilization of Medicaid Addiction Treatment Benefit. *VCU News* reported on August 10, 2021, that the Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services released a [report](#) showing a 79 percent increase in Medicaid beneficiaries utilizing the state's Addiction and Recovery Treatment Services benefit in 2019. The report, which was prepared for the state by Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine, attributes the increase to Medicaid expansion and additional benefits. [Read More](#)

National

Medicaid Work Requirements Are Revoked in Ohio, South Carolina, Utah. *Becker's Hospital Review* reported on August 11, 2021, that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) revoked its approval of Medicaid work requirements in Ohio, South Carolina, and Utah. All three states had already delayed implementing the requirements. [Read More](#)

Lawmakers Look to Safeguard Medicaid for Foster Children With Behavioral Health Issues. Senators Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) and Richard Burr (R-NC) on August 10, 2021, introduced legislation that clarifies existing law to ensure Medicaid covers foster children with behavioral health issues. The Ensuring Medicaid Continuity for Children in Foster Care Act of 2021 would provide a narrow exemption from the Institution for Mental Diseases exclusion, allowing foster children in Qualified Residential Treatment Programs to maintain Medicaid coverage. [Read More](#)

Senate Bill to Address Nursing Home Staffing, Medicaid Funding. *Skilled Nursing News* reported on August 10, 2021, that six U.S. Senators introduced the Nursing Home Improvement and Accountability Act of 2021, a bill that would allocate \$50 million for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to recommend minimum staffing requirements in nursing homes and staff-to-resident ratios every five years beginning in 2022. The bill would also temporarily increase Medicaid funding for long-term care providers to support additional staffing for registered nurses and infection prevention. Additionally, the legislation would develop a \$1.3 billion small-home nursing facility demonstration, which would help smaller facilities receive additional funding if they meet certain conditions. The bill was introduced by Senators Ron Wyden (D-OR), Bob Casey (D-PA), Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), Michael Bennet (D-CO), Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), and Sherrod Brown (D-OH). [Read More](#)

Medicaid Expansion Increases Number of Dentists Participating in Medicaid, Report Finds. *News Medical* reported on August 9, 2021, that Medicaid expansion can increase access to dental care in underserved areas by increasing the number of dentists participating in Medicaid, according to a [report](#) published in the *Journal of Public Economics*. The report analyzed information from 2006 to 2013. [Read More](#)

Lawmakers Push CMS to Issue Guidance on Postpartum Medicaid Coverage Extension. *eNews Park Forest* reported on August 10, 2021, that members of Congress are calling for immediate regulatory guidance on a provision of the American Rescue Plan that allows states to extend Medicaid postpartum coverage from 60 days to one year. In a letter to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, lawmakers asked for immediate steps to implement the provision, which will become available to states on April 1, 2022, and will remain available for five years. [Read More](#)

Senate Democrats Reintroduce Legislation to Create Medicaid Buy-in. *Fierce Healthcare* reported on August 6, 2021, that Senate Democrats have reintroduced legislation that would allow states to create a Medicaid buy-in for all residents regardless of income. The bill is not part of a proposed \$3.5 trillion infrastructure package, which includes expanded Medicare benefits and drug pricing reforms. [Read More](#)

HHS Offers More Than \$70 Million to Help Rural Communities Combat Substance Use Disorder. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced on August 5, 2021, that it will distribute \$78 million to help rural communities combat substance use disorder through the Rural Communities Opioid Response Program-Implementation initiative. HHS is also awarding approximately \$11.2 million in funding to the Rural Communities Opioid Response Program-Psychostimulant Support Program, Rural Maternity and Obstetrics Management Strategies Program, and Rural Northern Border Region Planning Program. [Read More](#)

Medicare Advantage Plan Faces Federal Audit. *Modern Healthcare* reported on August 4, 2021, that the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General, is auditing Aetna's Medicare Advantage business. Aetna has 4.1 million Medicare Advantage and Medicare supplement members. [Read More](#)



INDUSTRY NEWS

Palladium Equity Partners Acquires Health Connect America From Harren Equity Partners. Private equity firm Palladium Equity Partners announced on August 10, 2021, the acquisition of Tennessee-based Health Connect America, a behavioral health provider, from Harren Equity Partners. Health Connect America predominantly serves Medicaid beneficiaries living in the southeast. William Blair served as financial advisor to Health Connect America. Terms of the transaction were not disclosed. [Read More](#)

CVS Health/Aetna to Offer Exchange Plans in Eight States in 2022. *Fierce Healthcare* reported on August 4, 2021, that CVS Health/Aetna will reenter the Affordable Care Act Exchange market in eight states in January 2022. States include Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Missouri, Nevada, North Carolina, Texas, and Virginia. Aetna exited the Exchange market in 2018. [Read More](#)

Lumeris Affiliate Acquires Majority of Medicare Advantage Plan from Stanford Health. Healthcare technology company Lumeris announced on August 5, 2021, that its Medicare Advantage plan Essence Healthcare has acquired a majority stake in Stanford Health Care Advantage, a Medicare Advantage plan serving Alameda, San Mateo, and Santa Clara County, CA. Stanford Health Care will retain a minority stake. [Read More](#)

Honor Technology Acquires Home Care Provider Home Instead. Honor Technology announced on August 6, 2021, the acquisition of home care provider Home Instead. Financial terms of the acquisition were not disclosed. [Read More](#)

Welsh, Carson Launches Vehicle for Value-Based Care Investments. Private equity firm Welsh, Carson, Anderson & Stowe (WCAS) announced on August 3, 2021, the launch of Valtruis, a vehicle for investing in value-based healthcare companies. WCAS will commit \$300 million initially to Valtruis. [Read More](#)

Piedmont Healthcare Purchases Four GA-based Hospitals from HCA Healthcare for \$950 Million. *Becker's Hospital Review* reported on August 3, 2021, that Tennessee-based HCA Healthcare completed the sale of four Georgia-based hospitals to Piedmont Healthcare for about \$950 million. The hospitals are Eastside Medical Center in Snellville; Cartersville Medical Center; and the two-hospital Coliseum Health System, which includes Coliseum Medical Centers and Coliseum Northside in Macon. Piedmont now operates 15 hospitals. [Read More](#)

Cressey & Company Announces Investment in Home Care Pulse. Private investment firm Cressey & Company announced on August 4, 2021, an investment in Home Care Pulse, which offers provider training, surveys, and other services to the home care industry. Terms of the deal were not disclosed. [Read More](#)

Steward Health Care Acquires Five FL Hospitals From Tenet Healthcare. Steward Health Care announced on August 2, 2021, that it has completed the acquisition of five Florida hospitals from Tenet Healthcare: Coral Gables Hospital, Florida Medical Center, Hialeah Hospital, North Shore Medical Center, and Palmetto General Hospital. Sanjay Shetty, MD, president of Steward North America, will oversee the facilities. Steward now has 44 hospitals in the U.S., Colombia, and Malta. [Read More](#)

RFP CALENDAR

Date	State/Program	Event	Beneficiaries
Summer 2021	Rhode Island	RFP Release	276,000
July 1, 2021 - Delayed	Missouri	RFP Release	756,000
August 2021	Texas STAR Health	RFP Release	36,500
August 31, 2021	Tennessee	Proposals Due	1,500,000
September 3, 2021	Louisiana	Proposals Due	1,600,000
October 2021	Minnesota Seniors and Special Needs BasicCare	RFP Release	120,000
October 1, 2021	Oklahoma	Implementation	742,000
October 8, 2021	Tennessee	Awards	1,500,000
November 2021	Missouri	Awards	756,000
November 5, 2021	Louisiana	Awards	1,600,000
December 1, 2021	Delaware	RFP Release	240,000
December 22, 2021	Iowa	RFP Release	745,000
Late 2021	California Two Plan Commercial - Alameda, Contra Costa, Fresno, Kern, Kings, Los Angeles, Madera, Riverside, San Bernardino, Santa Clara, San Francisco, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, and Tulare	RFP Release	1,640,000
Late 2021	California GMC - Sacramento, San Diego	RFP Release	1,091,000
Late 2021	California Imperial	RFP Release	75,000
Late 2021	California Regional - Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, El Dorado, Glenn, Inyo, Mariposa, Mono, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sierra, Sutter, Tehama, Tuolumne, Yuba	RFP Release	286,000
Late 2021	California San Benito	RFP Release	7,600
Dec. 2021 - Feb. 2022	Texas STAR+PLUS	RFP Release	538,000
First Quarter 2022	Indiana MLTSS	RFP Release	NA
January 2022	Minnesota MA Families and Children, MinnesotaCare	RFP Release	543,000
January 1, 2022	Minnesota MA Families, Children; MinnesotaCare (metro)	Implementation	548,000
January 1, 2022	Nevada	Implementation	600,000
January 1, 2022	Massachusetts One Care (Duals Demo)	Implementation	150,000
January 1, 2022	North Dakota Expansion	Implementation	19,800
January 5, 2022	Ohio	Implementation	2,450,000
January 7, 2022	Indiana Hoosier Healthwise and HIP	Awards	1,200,000
February 2022	Texas STAR Health	Awards	36,500
July 1, 2022	Rhode Island	Implementation	276,000
July 1, 2022	North Carolina - BH IDD Tailored Plans	Implementation	NA
July 1, 2022	Missouri	Implementation	756,000
July 1, 2022	Louisiana	Implementation	1,600,000
Early 2022 – Mid 2022	California Two Plan Commercial - Alameda, Contra Costa, Fresno, Kern, Kings, Los Angeles, Madera, Riverside, San Bernardino, Santa Clara, San Francisco, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, and Tulare	Awards	1,640,000
Early 2022 – Mid 2022	California GMC - Sacramento, San Diego	Awards	1,091,000
Early 2022 – Mid 2022	California Imperial	Awards	75,000
Early 2022 – Mid 2022	California Regional - Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, El Dorado, Glenn, Inyo, Mariposa, Mono, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sierra, Sutter, Tehama, Tuolumne, Yuba	Awards	286,000
Early 2022 – Mid 2022	California San Benito	Awards	7,600
Mar. 2022 - May 2022	Texas STAR+PLUS	Awards	538,000
Fourth Quarter 2022	Indiana MLTSS	Awards	NA
Sep. 2022 - Nov. 2022	Texas STAR & CHIP	RFP Release	3,700,000
Dec. 2022 - Feb. 2023	Texas STAR & CHIP	Awards	3,700,000
January 1, 2023	Tennessee	Implementation	1,500,000
January 1, 2023	Minnesota MA Families and Children, MinnesotaCare	Implementation	543,000
January 7, 2022	Indiana Hoosier Healthwise and HIP	Awards	1,200,000
Mar. 2023 - May 2023	Texas STAR Kids	RFP Release	166,000
Jun. 2023 - Aug. 2023	Texas STAR Kids	Awards	166,000
Jun. 2023 - Aug. 2023	Texas STAR Health	Implementation	36,500
Sep. 2023 - Nov. 2023	Texas STAR+PLUS	Implementation	538,000
2024	Indiana MLTSS	Implementation	NA
January 2024	California Two Plan Commercial - Alameda, Contra Costa, Fresno, Kern, Kings, Los Angeles, Madera, Riverside, San Bernardino, Santa Clara, San Francisco, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, and Tulare	Implementation	1,640,000
January 2024	California GMC - Sacramento, San Diego	Implementation	1,091,000
January 2024	California Imperial	Implementation	75,000
January 2024	California Regional - Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, El Dorado, Glenn, Inyo, Mariposa, Mono, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sierra, Sutter, Tehama, Tuolumne, Yuba	Implementation	286,000
January 2024	California San Benito	Implementation	7,600
Jun. 2024 - Aug. 2024	Texas STAR & CHIP	Implementation	3,700,000
Dec. 2024 - Feb. 2025	Texas STAR Kids	Implementation	166,000

HMA NEWS

New this week on HMA Information Services (HMAIS):

Medicaid Data

- California Medicaid Fee for Service vs. Managed Care Penetration, 2014-20
- DC Medicaid Fee for Service vs. Managed Care Penetration, 2014-20
- Illinois Medicaid Fee for Service vs. Managed Care Penetration, 2014-20
- Missouri Medicaid Fee for Service vs. Managed Care Penetration, 2014-20
- Mississippi Medicaid Fee for Service vs. Managed Care Penetration, 2014-20
- Montana Medicaid Fee for Service vs. Managed Care Penetration, 2014-20
- North Dakota Medicaid Fee for Service vs. Managed Care Penetration, 2014-20
- Nebraska Medicaid Fee for Service vs. Managed Care Penetration, 2014-20
- New Hampshire Medicaid Fee for Service vs. Managed Care Penetration, 2014-20
- New Jersey Medicaid Fee for Service vs. Managed Care Penetration, 2014-20
- Ohio Medicaid Fee for Service vs. Managed Care Penetration, 2014-20
- Oklahoma Medicaid Fee for Service vs. Managed Care Penetration, 2014-20
- Pennsylvania Medicaid Fee for Service vs. Managed Care Penetration, 2014-20
- Rhode Island Medicaid Fee for Service vs. Managed Care Penetration, 2014-20
- South Dakota Medicaid Fee for Service vs. Managed Care Penetration, 2014-20
- Tennessee Medicaid Fee for Service vs. Managed Care Penetration, 2014-20
- California Medicaid Managed Care Enrollment is Up 2.1%, Mar-21 Data
- Colorado RAE Enrollment is Up 5.1%, May-21 Data
- DC Medicaid Managed Care Enrollment is Up 3.8%, Jun-21 Data
- DC SNP Membership at 17,206, Mar-21 Data
- Indiana Medicaid Managed Care Enrollment Is Up 8.2%, Jun-21 Data
- Maryland Medicaid Managed Care Enrollment Is Up 4.8%, Jun-21 Data
- Minnesota SNP Membership at 48,044, Mar-21 Data
- Mississippi Medicaid Managed Care Enrollment is Up 3.1%, Jun-21 Data
- New Hersey Medicaid Managed Care Enrollment is Up 5%, May-21 Data
- New Jersey Medicaid Managed Care Enrollment is Up 5.5%, Jun-21 Data
- Oklahoma Medicaid Enrollment is Up 5.4%, Jun-21 Data
- Pennsylvania Medicaid Managed Care Enrollment is Up 4.1%, Apr-21 Data
- Texas SNP Membership at 337,441, Mar-21 Data
- West Virginia Medicaid Managed Care Enrollment is Up 6.2%, Jun-21 Data

Public Documents:

Medicaid RFPs, RFIs, and Contracts:

- Illinois Electronic Timekeeping, Visit Verification, and Payroll RFP, Proposals, Scoring, and Contract, 2013
- Missouri Electronic Aggregator Solution for Electronic Visit Verification RFP, Contract, and Scoring, 2020-21

Medicaid Program Reports, Data and Updates:

- Hawaii QUEST Integration Section 1115 CMS Quarterly Reports, 2Q21
- Kansas KanCare Program External Quality Review Reports, 2020-21
- New Jersey Family Care Enrollment by Age, Eligibility Group, and County, 2016-20, Jun-21
- Pennsylvania DOH Pregnancy-Associated Deaths Report, 2013-18
- Pennsylvania OVR MLTSS Subcommittee Meeting Materials, Aug-21
- Tennessee TennCare III 1115 Waiver Documents, 2020-21

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- RFP calendar

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