IHHC
FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE WATCH LIST
Updated 11.13.19

2019

116th Congress

More details available at:

www.congress.gov
www.senate.gov
www.house.gov
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bill # &amp; Title</th>
<th>Bill Synopsis</th>
<th>Sponsors</th>
<th># of Co-Sponsors</th>
<th>Co-Sponsors from IL</th>
<th>Bill Status</th>
<th>IHHC Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>LEGISLATION</strong></td>
<td>Requires HHS to provide support for Palliative Care and Hospice Education Centers. These centers must improve the training of health professionals in palliative care and establish traineeships for individuals preparing for advanced education nursing degrees, social work degrees, or advanced degrees in physician assistant studies in palliative care. HHS may provide support to schools of medicine, schools of osteopathic medicine, teaching hospitals, and graduate medical education programs for training physicians who plan to teach palliative medicine. HHS must: (1) provide Palliative Medicine and Hospice Academic Career Awards to individuals to promote their career development; (2) support entities that operate a Palliative Care and Hospice Education Center; (3) support advanced practice nurses, social workers, physician assistants, pharmacists, chaplains, or students of psychology pursuing an advanced degree in palliative care or related fields; and (4) award grants to schools of nursing, health care</td>
<td>Rep. Eliot Engel (D-NY)</td>
<td>House: 268</td>
<td>House: 15 Bost Casten D. Davis R. Davis Foster Kelly Kinzinger Krishnamoorthi LaHood Lipinski Quigley Rush Schakowsky Schneider Underwood</td>
<td>House: 10/28/19 – Passed the House</td>
<td>Support</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
facilities, or programs leading to certification as a nurse assistant to train individuals in providing palliative care.

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality must provide for a national education and awareness campaign to inform patients, families, and health professionals about the benefits of palliative care.

The National Institutes of Health must expand national research programs in palliative care.

| H.R. 1343 Protecting Married Seniors from Impoverishment Act | This bill makes permanent certain provisions regarding Medicaid eligibility that protect against spousal impoverishment for recipients of home and community-based services. Under current law, these provisions expire on March 31, 2019. | Rep. Debbie Dingell (D-MI) | House: 2 | House: 0 | House: 02/26/19 – Referred to the Subcommittee on Health | Support |
| H.R. 3253 Sustaining Excellence in Medicaid Act of 2019 | This bill alters several Medicaid programs and funding mechanisms. Specifically, the bill • makes appropriations through FY2024 for, and otherwise revises, the Money Follows the Person Rebalancing Demonstration Program; • allows state Medicaid fraud control units to review complaints regarding patients who are in noninstitutional or other settings; • temporarily extends the applicability of Medicaid eligibility criteria that protect against spousal impoverishment for | Rep. Debbie Dingell (D-MI) | House: 9 | House: 0 | 08/06/19 – Became Public Law No: 116-39 | Support |
recipients of home and community-based services;
• temporarily extends the Medicaid demonstration program for certified community behavioral health clinics;
• repeals the requirement, under the Medicaid Drug Rebate Program, that drug manufacturers include the prices of certain authorized generic drugs when determining the average manufacturer price (AMP) of brand name drugs (also known as a "blended AMP"), and excludes manufacturers from the definition of "wholesalers" for purposes of rebate calculations; and
• increases funding available to the Medicaid Improvement Fund beginning in FY2021.

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<tr>
<th>Bill</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Sponsor</th>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Floor Action</th>
<th>Support</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S. 296 / H.R. 2150</td>
<td>Allows NPs, clinical nurse specialists, certified nurse-midwives, and PAs to order home health services and oversee home health plans of care.</td>
<td>Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME) Rep. Jan Schakowsky (D-IL)</td>
<td>Senate: 37 House: 120</td>
<td>Senate: 0 House: 5</td>
<td>Senate: 01/31/19 - Referred to the Committee on Finance Senate: 04/09/19 – Referred to Subcommittee on Health</td>
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To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve home health payment reforms under the Medicare program

updating home health payment rates under PDGM and include such data in the HH PPS notice and comment rulemaking; Requires CMS to phase-in any increase or decrease in HH payment rates exceeding 2% in equal amounts.

Further, the bill permits the waiving of the homebound regulatory requirement to enable greater flexibility for Medicare beneficiaries in Medicare Advantage plans (and waiver programs) to receive home health services.

Extends and improves the Money Follows the Person program (MFP) through 2023. MFP incentivizes investment in home and community-based services by providing federal funding for transitional services for individuals who wish to leave a nursing home or other institution. The bill also reduces the time an individual must be in a nursing home before becoming eligible to transition from 90 days to 60 days.

Allows CMS to issue waivers to allow Medicare beneficiaries to receive hospice and curative treatment at the same time; allow NPs, PAs and clinical nurse specialists to certify and re-certify eligibility for home health services, establish and review home health plans of care, document the required F2F encounter, and provide the initial certification for hospice care; allow patients to receive home health services without being
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<tr>
<th>Bill Number</th>
<th>Bill Title</th>
<th>Text</th>
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| S. 1190 / H.R. 2594 | Rural Access to Hospice Act | Allows Rural Health Clinics and Federally Qualified Health Clinics to bill Medicare for hospice attending physician services if the physician is a clinic employee. 
Sen. Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV)  
Rep. Ron Kind (D-WI) | Senate: 11  
House: 33 | Senate: 0  
House: 1 | Krishnamoorthi | Support |
| S.1725/H.R.3127 | Medicare Home Health Flexibility Act | Allows Occupational Therapists to perform the initial OASIS assessment when starting a case. 
Sen. Benjamin Cardin (D-MD)  
Rep. Lloyd Doggett (D-TX) | Senate: 4  
House: 16 | Senate: 0  
House: 0 | | |
Takes important steps toward addressing the issues identified in the recent OIG reports by:

- Addressing the need for greater transparency of survey compliance by
  - Requiring uniform collection and reporting of hospice survey findings
  - Making survey information publicly available online
  - Including stakeholders in the process of identifying key survey findings that link to quality of care for use in published summaries of survey findings
  - Requiring annual reports on hospice survey performance
- Making triennial surveys permanent
- Requiring more frequent surveys for hospices subject to intermediate sanctions and new providers entering the program
- Requiring state and accrediting organization surveyors to alert hospices to areas of concern at the time a survey concludes, and to provide educational support to assist with improvement on survey performance
- Development of intermediate sanctions that would include:
  - Payment suspension
  - Temporary management

Sen. Rob Portman

Senate: 1

Senate: 0

Senate: 11/07/19
- Referred to the Committee on Finance
- directed plans of correction
- mandatory staff in-service training