

House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee Holds Hearing on Drug Pricing Legislation

On May 4, the Subcommittee on Health of the Committee on Energy & Commerce held a hearing on several bills that would lower prescription drug spending. The hearing focused on [HR 3](#), the “Elijah E. Cummings Lower Drug Costs Now Act”, and [HR 19](#), the “Lower Costs, More Cures Act.” HR 3 was introduced by Rep. Frank Pallone on April 22 and has been referred to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, Education and Labor, Oversight and Reform, and Veterans Affairs. HR 19 was introduced by Rep. McMorris Rodgers on April 21 and has been referred to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, and the Judiciary. These bills, along with the yet-to-be-reintroduced [Grassley-Wyden bill](#), represent the primary legislative efforts to reduce prescription drug spending in the 117th Congress. It is unlikely that HR 3 or HR 19 become law in their current form due to Republican and moderate Democrat opposition.

View the Energy & Commerce Subcommittee [hearing](#).



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Eye On Washington

AMCP Issues Statement Congratulating HHS Deputy Secretary Palm

On May 11, AMCP issued a statement congratulating Andrea Palm on her confirmation as Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS). Ms. Palm previously served as Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Health Services and was Chief of Staff at HHS during the Obama administration. In the statement, AMCP called Ms. Palm “an excellent choice with extensive experience administering health care to Americans that will serve our country well and help get more people the care they need.”

Read AMCP’s [full statement](#).

AMCP Sends Letter to Senate Finance Committee in Support of Chiquita Brooks-Lasure

On April 28, AMCP submitted a letter of support to the Senate Finance Committee endorsing Chiquita Brooks-LaSure to serve as the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). AMCP recognized Ms. Brooks-LaSure's pivotal role in developing the Affordable Care Act along with her considerable experience working in the federal government at CMS, HHS, and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). AMCP looks forward to partnering with Ms. Brooks-LaSure as CMS Administrator on increasing access to affordable medicines, improving health outcomes, and ensuring health equity for all patients.

Advocacy Tip

Stay up-to-date: Read AMCP’s [Letters, Statements and Analysis](#) on all legislation and regulation impacting managed care pharmacy.

Read [AMCP's letter](#).

MCIT Rule Further Delayed

On May 14, CMS [announced](#) that the Medicare Coverage of Innovative Technologies (MCIT) final rule will be further delayed until December 15, 2021. The MCIT rule created a new coverage pathway applying to devices that receive FDA market authorization through the agency's Breakthrough Devices Program, such as digital therapeutics and would allow Medicare beneficiaries faster access to these innovative devices by shortening the time it takes for them to receive national coverage. As part of its regulatory review process, the Biden administration originally delayed the effective date of the MCIT rule until May 15, 2021 and reopened the comment process. AMCP submitted a new set of comments to CMS, urging the agency to address Medicare coverage of digital therapeutics. After its review, CMS is delaying the effective date further to Dec. 15, 2021 and states that it may consider additional rulemaking on the topic.

Read [AMCP's comments](#).

AMCP Joins Pharmacy Health IT Coalition Comments on HIPAA Proposed Rule

AMCP signed on to comments submitted by the Pharmacy Health IT (PHIT) Coalition on a [proposed rule](#) making changes to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) to remove barriers to care coordination. The proposed changes include strengthening patients' rights to access their own health information, improving information sharing for care coordination and case management, facilitating greater family and caregiver involvement in the care of individuals experiencing emergencies or health crises, enhancing flexibilities for disclosures in emergency or threatening circumstances, and reducing administrative burdens on HIPAA covered health care providers and health plans. PHIT's comments focus mainly on the technical aspects of the rule related to electronic access to health information.

Read PHIT's [comments](#).

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