

AMCP Joins Supply Chain Stakeholders in Statement on Executive Order; Medicare Advantage Beneficiary Access to COVID-19 Vaccines

On April 19, AMCP joined the Pharmaceutical Supply and Payment Chain (PSPC) Coalition in two communications to the Biden administration. The statement thanked the Biden administration for the Executive Order on American Supply Chains and affirmed PSPC Coalition members' commitment to ensuring patients have access to the medicines they need. The PSPC Coalition urged the administration to focus on solutions that harness existing relationships with international trade partners and cautioned that measures that would change existing sourcing and production could disrupt patient access to medicines. The PSPC Coalition also sent joint recommendations to CMS regarding Medicare Advantage enrollees seeking access to COVID-19 vaccines without their Original Medicare cards. The PSPC Coalition urged CMS to provide clear guidance to all administration sites and providers and to instruct MACs to provide any assistance necessary to providers to ensure vaccine administration is properly reimbursed and entered into the COVAX portal.

Read the PSPC Coalition's [statement](#) on the Supply Chain EO and [recommendations](#) to CMS.

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Eye On Washington

In Case You Missed It: Policy and Advocacy Sessions at AMCP 2021

- **Federal and State Legislative and Regulatory Update**

AMCP's Policy and Government Relations team presented the latest federal and state legislative and regulatory actions of interest to managed care and specialty pharmacy professionals. The session highlighted AMCP's 2021 government relations priority issues, as well as the latest legislative developments by Congress, recent regulations from federal agencies under the Biden administration, and pertinent legislative and regulatory updates within key state governments.

Watch the [recorded session](#) (recording available to AMCP 2021 registrants only).

- **Grassroots Advocacy: Why It Matters and What You Can Do**

Grassroots advocacy is more important now than ever to the field of pharmacy, and Americans are increasingly concerned about candidates' and politicians' health platforms, especially regarding the cost of and access to prescription drugs. Jason Jordan, partner and

Advocacy Tip

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

chief of advisory services with Advocacy Associates, LLC, shared his perspective as a veteran of Capitol Hill on the value of grassroots advocacy. This session presented strategies to build connections with legislators and design outreach plans to achieve vital policy goals.

Watch the [recorded session](#) (recording available to AMCP 2021 registrants only).

Medicare Payment Sequester Cuts Delayed Until Dec. 31

On April 14, President Biden [signed legislation](#) that delayed a 2% cut to Medicare payments until Dec. 31, 2021. Medicare spending has been subject to automatic reductions known as sequestration since 2013, as mandated by the Budget Control Act of 2011. The CARES Act of 2020 introduced a temporary moratorium to the sequestration that was set to expire on Dec. 31, 2020, and the moratorium was extended until March 31, 2021 under the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2020. The Medicare payment cuts technically resumed on April 1, but CMS instructed Medicare administrative contractors (MACs) to hold all claims until the legislation was enacted.

AMCP Submits Comments on MCIT Rule

As part of its regulatory review process, the Biden administration delayed the effective date and reopened the comment period on the Medicare Coverage of Innovative Technology (MCIT) rule. 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 will allow Medicare beneficiaries faster access to these innovative devices by shortening the time it takes for them to receive national coverage. However, this rule requires that MCIT-approved devices fit into a Medicare benefit category in order to receive Medicare coverage, and currently there is no benefit category that would apply to digital therapeutics. AMCP submitted a new set of comments to CMS, urging the agency to address Medicare coverage of digital therapeutics.

Read AMCP's [comments](#).

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