

July 8, 2016

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NEXT WEEK IN WASHINGTON...

- * On Tuesday, July 12, the Senate Finance Committee will hold a hearing on current issues with the Stark laws.
- * Also on Tuesday, the House Ways and Means Committee will hold a hearing on rising health insurance premiums.
- * On Wednesday, July 13:
 - Senate Finance Committee will hold hearing on how to ensure the successful implementation of physician payment reforms
 - House Appropriations Committee meets to consider FY 2017 Labor, HHS, Education bill
 - Health Care Subcommittee of the Senate Finance Committee has scheduled a hearing on how Alzheimer's disease poses a looming problem for Medicare
 - Investigations Subcommittee of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee will hold a hearing on combatting opioid abuse

1. CMS ISSUES PROPOSED MEDICARE PHYSICIAN FEE SCHEDULE

On July 7, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released the 2017 [proposed Medicare physician fee schedule](#). Of particular significance to primary care physicians, CMS proposes increased payments for several care management services. Specifically, the regulation includes proposals to pay for:

- Non-face-to-face prolonged evaluation and management services
- Comprehensive assessment and care planning for patients with cognitive impairment
- Primary care practices to use interprofessional care management resources to treat behavioral health conditions
- Resource costs of furnishing visits to patients with mobility-related impairments
- Chronic care management (CCM) for patients with greater more complex conditions