



## Capitol Insights Newsletter

### May 2, 2025

Author: Luke Schwartz and Matt Reiter

### **What Happened in Congress This Week?**

This week, Congress returned from Easter recess, and all eyes are now on Reconciliation. Congressional committees spent the week getting their ducks in a row for Reconciliation mark-ups that are planned to take place over the next few weeks. While far from the final step, this will provide clarity on a number of issues, including how the House Energy & Commerce Committee plans to save \$880 billion over the next 10 years.

Yesterday, Democrats released [resolutions](#) calling on the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to reverse their new agency policy that suspends public comment on a wide range of rulemaking.

### **President Trump Crosses “100 Day” Mile Marker** **– But the Next 100 Days are More Important for Health Policy**

This week, President Trump reached 100 days in office. Dating back to President Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s [first term](#) in 1933, a president’s first 100 days in office have remained a significant benchmark for every presidential administration. On the campaign trail, presidential candidates make promises about what they plan to achieve. Presidents typically aggressively advance as many of their campaign promises as possible during the first 100 days. Additionally, legislating becomes more difficult as we get closer to mid-term elections.

President Trump’s first 100 days were incredibly active. He confirmed his entire cabinet, advanced new immigration policies, and established a massive new framework of tariffs on international trade.

However, the next 100 days will see a flurry of new activity on health policies championed by the President and the Republican-controlled Congress.

First and foremost, the House of Representatives is putting pen to paper on the budget reconciliation bill that will advance much of the Republicans’ legislative agenda. House Republicans are currently having internal debates about Medicaid reforms. Both the total savings target and the specific coverage changes are still being worked out. If these disagreements

---

[Click here to subscribe for weekly updates!](#)

1009 Duke St. Alexandria, VA 22314  
(202) 544-1880 | Fax: (202) 543-5913  
[administrator@capitolassociates.com](mailto:administrator@capitolassociates.com)



## Capitol Insights Newsletter

### May 2, 2025

Author: Luke Schwartz and Matt Reiter

persist, the reconciliation bill could pivot to changes to Medicare such as expanding site-neutral payments. Key Committee Chairs and House Leadership met with President Trump this week to discuss a solution to these and other issues.

Physicians also hope the reconciliation bill will address the 2.83% cut to Medicare payments that has been in effect since the beginning of the year. It is still unclear if the bill will include a “doc fix.” Whether or not this cut is addressed, Congressional champions for this policy (Republicans and Democrats) are also expected to advocate for a more sustainable reform to Medicare payments such as an annual inflationary update.

Separate from Congress, the Trump Administration will start to have a larger impact on health policies with upcoming rulemaking.

Of course, there is the annual Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) and Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS) proposed rules that come out around the beginning of July. These proposed rules will put forward important reimbursement policies that have a direct impact on clinicians.

The Trump Administration is also scheduled to issue proposed and final versions of important rules this summer, some of which were previously proposed under the Biden Administration. The final version of these rules could have major differences from the Biden Administration’s proposals. These rules include:

- A final rule updating the HIPAA cybersecurity standards
- A final rule that would make operational improvements to the No Surprises Act’s IDR process
- A proposed rule to implement the No Surprises Act’s Advanced Explanation of Benefits (AEOB) provision
- Various proposed and final rules modifying HIPAA’s standard electronic transactions, including a final rule to adopt a claims attachment standard

Lastly, the outcome of various court cases could also impact health policies. For example, the US Supreme Court heard a case challenging the Affordable Care Act’s (ACA) requirement that qualified health plans cover services recommended by the US Preventive Services Task Force (USPTF) without cost sharing for the enrollee. Justices’ questions during oral arguments suggest

---

[Click here to subscribe for weekly updates!](#)

1009 Duke St. Alexandria, VA 22314  
(202) 544-1880 | Fax: (202) 543-5913  
administrator@capitolassociates.com



## Capitol Insights Newsletter

### May 2, 2025

Author: Luke Schwartz and Matt Reiter

the Court will uphold the current law. However, ruling against the current policy could cause major changes to how health plans cover certain services.

This newsletter will continue to track these and other policies over the coming months.

### Top Stories in Healthcare Policy

A [new group of vaccine experts](#) is being created and plans to issue alternative vaccine recommendations to those of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), citing concerns over the administration's vaccine hesitancy.

Artificial Intelligence can [complement but not replace](#) medical coders, according to a new survey.

A group of prominent public health advocates [described](#) a meeting they had with members of a local Make America Healthy Again (MAHA) chapter where they exchanged views and to tried to understand each other's perspectives.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) will [shut down](#) its Office of Equal Opportunity and Civil Rights in June as part of a broader reorganization at HHS, shifting civil rights responsibilities to other entities. Simultaneously, the HHS Office for Civil Rights has been redirected to focus on targeting DEI programs, gender-affirming care, and affirmative action. The office will also reduce its traditional role in patient privacy and cybersecurity enforcement amid major staff cuts.

[The Department of Justice \(DOJ\) is suing three Medicare Advantage insurers, alleging that they illegally paid brokers to enroll people into their plans.](#)

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced the new [“Fraud Detection Operating Center”](#) (FDOC) this week. The goal of the center is to identify and fight waste, fraud, and abuse within Medicare and Medicaid.

---

[Click here to subscribe for weekly updates!](#)

1009 Duke St. Alexandria, VA 22314  
(202) 544-1880 | Fax: (202) 543-5913  
administrator@capitolassociates.com