



Thursday, October 1, 2020

Printer-Friendly Version

In This Issue:

Governor Lamont Calls Second Special Session of 2020-General Assembly Meets to Consider Pressing Legislative Matters and Judicial Nominations

Congress Approves and President Signs Stop-Gap Measure to Keep Government Open Through December- Critical Hospital Priorities Included in Deal

OHS Requests Comments on Cost Growth Benchmark Preliminary Recommendations

Education Updates

Update Archives

Governor Lamont Calls Second Special Session of 2020-General Assembly Meets to Consider Pressing Legislative Matters and Judicial Nominations

On Friday, September 25, Governor Ned Lamont issued two proclamations calling the General Assembly into special session to:

- Address several legislative matters, none of which have a direct impact on hospitals
• Approve Appellate and Supreme Court nominations

Additional information on the Governor's proclamation for a special session related to policy matters and the call for a special session related to judicial nominations can be found here.

Following the Governor's call, the House of Representatives met on Wednesday, September 30, and the Senate is meeting on Thursday, October 1, to consider the legislative priorities agreed to by the Governor and leadership of each chamber, as well as judicial nominations.

This is the second special session called by the Governor since the General Assembly adjourned the 2020 Legislative Session Sine Die on May 6. The first special session was held on July 23 and July 28, at which time the General Assembly voted to extend the Governor's Executive Order related to telehealth until March 15, 2021.



Congress Approves and President Signs Stop-Gap Measure to Keep Government Open Through December- Critical Hospital Priorities Included in Deal



On Wednesday, September 30, the United States Senate passed and the President signed a stop-gap government funding bill that the U.S. House of Representatives approved last week, to keep the federal government funded until December 11. Congress is expected to return after the November election during a lame-duck session to consider long-term funding legislation.

The legislation includes provisions important to hospitals. Among the provisions included in the package are important changes to the Medicare Accelerated and Advance Payment Program, including:

- Extending the period of time before the recoupment period begins to one year (recoupment had been slated to begin after 120 days)
• Changing the amount withheld from each Medicare claim once repayment begins from 100 percent of the claim to 25 percent for the first 11 months of the repayment period, and 50 percent for the next six months of the repayment period
• Amending the interest rate charged to any remaining balance at the end of the repayment program to four percent

Taken together, hospitals and other providers will have 29 months from the date their first accelerated/advance payment was issued to repay their balance in full.

The legislation also includes a delay of the Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) reductions. The Medicaid DSH reductions, which were slated to go into effect on December 1, are delayed through December 11, providing Congress with the opportunity to further delay the reductions in line with its consideration of long-term funding legislation.

OHS Requests Comments on Cost Growth Benchmark Preliminary Recommendations

The Office of Health Strategy (OHS), the state agency tasked with implementing the Cost Growth Benchmark required under Governor Lamont's Executive Order 5 (EO 5), has issued a request for comment. OHS is looking for stakeholder feedback on a list of preliminary recommendations developed by the Technical Team created by OHS to help in the implementation of the program.



As required by EO 5, OHS is required to implement a cost growth benchmark, beginning in 2021, to limit the rate of healthcare spending growth in Connecticut. As part of this work, OHS created a Technical Team and a Stakeholder Advisory Board to provide technical expertise, and tasked the Technical Team with providing recommendations on key implementation issues.

The state's hospitals have been actively represented on the Stakeholder Advisory Board and the Connecticut Hospital Association has engaged directly with OHS on implementation of the program. Specifically, Connecticut's hospitals have advocated the implementation of the cost growth in a way that honors the need to address healthcare affordability, does not undermine healthcare's important role in the state's economy, and adopts a spirit

of collaboration.

CHA will be submitting comments to the Technical Team's recommendations.

Education Updates

CHA Leadership Development Series—Building Resilience

Tuesday, October 13, 2020

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Virtual Program

As we work to manage the demands and stresses of leading through these difficult times, it is important to build personal resilience. This is a deliberate process and this virtual, [90-minute program](#) will help participants understand the neuroscience behind calm and threat responses, as well as recognize and strengthen resilience. Register online [here](#).