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On April 22, Altegra Health submitted comments on the HHS-Operated Risk Adjustment Methodology Discussion Paper.



Kaiser Family Foundation Releases Analysis of UnitedHealth Group Exchange Decisions

On April 18, the Kaiser Family Foundation released an analysis finding that a withdrawal by UnitedHealth Group from the insurance exchanges in 2017 could have a significant impact on health plan competition and premiums in some markets, though it would have a minimal effect on the average benchmark premium nationwide. The analysis is based upon health plan participation and premiums in exchanges in 2016. It assumes that no new plans will enter markets where UnitedHealth is currently participating and does not assess United's statements about its losses or the reasons for them.



Unitedhealthcare Announces Reduced Insurance Exchange Presence

On April 19, UnitedHealthcare announced its plans to reduce the number of states where it offers coverage through the insurance exchanges. A spokesman confirmed Nevada and Virginia would be among the states where it will retain a presence. In the past week, UnitedHealthcare said it would leave Georgia, Michigan, and Arkansas.



Anthem and Cigna Confirm Their Commitment to Insurance Exchanges

Both Cigna and Anthem reportedly plan to continue their participation in the insurance exchanges.





Medicare/Medicaid

CMS Releases MA Quality of Care by Ethnicity

On April 19, the CMS Office of Minority Health released data detailing the quality of care received by MA beneficiaries by racial or ethnic group. The data are based on an analysis of two sources of information: the Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS) and the Medicare Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS®) Survey. Analysis of the quality of care delivered to beneficiaries showed that Asians and Pacific Islanders typically received care that is similar to or better than the care received by whites, whereas African Americans and Hispanics typically received care that is similar to or worse than the care received by whites. African Americans and Hispanics also reported their health care experiences as being similar to or worse than the experiences reported by whites.



ACAP Releases Analysis of Overlap Issuers

On April 19, the Association of Community Affiliated Plans (ACAP) released an analysis finding that approximately 40 percent of health plans (137 of 335) offering coverage in the insurance exchanges in 2016 also offer coverage through a Medicaid MCO. A county-level analysis of such "overlap issuers," however, suggests that many individuals, even those residing in states with large numbers of overlap issuers, have limited access to plans that operate in both Medicaid and the exchanges.

