



CMS to Propose Exchange Risk Adjustment Changes

On August 11, CMS announced a study showing that per-enrollee costs in the ACA individual market were essentially unchanged from 2014 to 2015, falling by 0.1 percent, even as per-enrollee costs in the broader health insurance market grew by at least 3 percent. Additionally, CMS announced that it will propose regulations in 2018 that will modify the risk adjustment program to absorb some of the cost for claims above a certain threshold (e.g. \$2 million), funded by a small payment from all issuers.



Michigan Releases 2017 Exchange Rate Requests

On August 1, the Michigan Department of Insurance and Financial Services released the 2017 insurance exchange rate requests. The average rate request was over 17 percent.



Aetna Announces Exchange Future Plans

On August 2, Aetna released its second quarter financial results. As part of this report, Aetna announced that it will withdraw all of its 2017 insurance exchange expansion plans. It is also undertaking a complete evaluation of future participation in its current 15-state footprint.



Humana Announces Exchange Future Plans

On August 3, Humana released its second quarter financial results. As part of this report, Humana announced that it will only offer insurance exchange plans in 156 counties in 2017.





Medicare/Medicaid

CMS Releases Proposed PACE Regulations

On August 11, CMS proposed regulations to update and modernize the Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE). This proposed rule would revise and update the requirements for PACE under Medicare and Medicaid, including strengthening protections and improving care for beneficiaries; as well as providing administrative flexibility and regulatory relief for PACE organizations.



MACPAC Profiles Medicaid State Authority to Incent Healthy Behaviors

In August, the Medicaid and CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program) Payment and Access Commission (MACPAC) released an issue brief focusing on the use of healthy behavior incentives in Medicaid, including the legal authorities, incentive structure, and the effect of these efforts on behavior. The study includes legal authorities for states to offer these incentives and profiles state best practices, including Florida's enhanced benefits rewards.



Milbank Memorial Fund Offers Resources for Socio-Economic Assistance in Medicaid

On July 25, the Milbank Memorial Fund produced a guide for policymakers and states to utilize Medicaid to facilitate access to social services. The brief documents the legal authorities upon which policymakers can rely to extend Medicaid coverage to social interventions and provides examples of how Medicaid can be an important component in the critical work of improving the health of populations. The brief outlines Medicaid MCO opportunities to offer social interventions.



Commonwealth Fund Examines Mobile Apps for Low-Income Patients

On July 29, the Commonwealth Fund released a study of mobile health apps and their ability to help patients. The study particularly examined their effectiveness for low-income patients with chronic diseases in addressing diabetes and depression. Three themes emerged from participants' comments: lack of confidence with technology, frustration with design features and navigation, and interest in having technology support their self-management.

