

03/19/2021

Good Evening REDC Members,

Here is your policy update for the week:

I. SERVE Act

i. NDAA Requests:

- NDAA requests are continually still being submitted, and please do keep a look out from emails from Luke Kopetsky in case we're asking your treatment center to also submit based on your Congressional District

ii. Committee Meetings

- Next week we'll be meeting with the Senate Armed Services Committee and House Armed Services Committee professional staff to discuss the SERVE Act and other TRICARE for Kids Coalition requests including the creation of a patient and provider complaint system for issues with access to care, provider directories, network adequacy, overdue payments, etc.

iii. New Co-Sponsors

- Senator Chris Murphy (D-CT), Rep. Bacon (R-NE)- **HASC Member**, Rep. Morelle (D-NY)- **HASC Member**, Rep. Peters (D-CA), Rep. Porter (D-CA), Rep. Jacobs (D-CA)- **HASC Member**, Rep. McBath (D-GA), Rep. DeGette (D-CO), Rep. Carbajal (D-CA)- **HASC Member**, Rep. Dean (D-PA), Rep. Hartzler (R-MO)- **HASC Member**

iv. Letter to DHA

- We're working on a detailed letter from the REDC & EDC to DHA requesting implementation of the SERVE Act provisions and request for addressing the current contracting issues with TRICARE (overdue payment, etc.)
 - Stay tuned as we hope to have this out before the spring holidays.

v. Defense Healthy Agency Clinical Communities Speaker Series, April 22, 2021

- The event is completely virtual allowing participants to earn up to 7.0 Continuing Education/Continuing Medical Education (CE/CME) credits from anywhere in the world if all courses are completed!
- This event highlights current evidence-based practices, recommendations and initiatives, ethical considerations, clinical care pathways, and public health screenings of relevance to the pediatric health care provider.
- **Target Audience:**

- This activity is designed to meet the educational needs of Physicians, Physician Assistants, Nurses, Pharmacists, Pharmacy Technicians, Optometrists, Dentists, Dental Hygienists, Dental Technicians, Social Workers, Psychologists, Occupational Therapists, Kinesiotherapists, Certified Counselors, Audiologists, Speech Language Pathologists, Healthcare Executives, and other health care professionals who support/ care for U.S. active-duty service members, reservists, military veterans and their families.
- **To register for the April CCSS Live Event, please visit the following link: <http://bit.ly/2OJcM9I>.**

II. Telehealth

i. MedPAC

- Congress' Medicare advisory panel (MedPAC) called for an extension of the program's pandemic-era telehealth expansion for up to two years after the public health emergency ends.
- Temporarily extending the generous telehealth policies would allow lawmakers more time to gather data on the nation's crash course in virtual care and decide which provisions should be made permanent.
- MedPAC, which has been skeptical of extending telehealth too quickly, said a one- or two-year extension should also include payments for audio-only visits for those who can't access video technology.
- It also recommended that Medicare revert to paying typical rates for telehealth appointments, which are traditionally lower than in-person visits.
 - This recommendation will surely receive push back from providers, including the REDC.

III. ACA & Other Health Related Items

i. COVID Relief

- Enhanced ACA subsidies under the latest COVID relief package, the American Rescue Plan will become available to shoppers starting April 1.
- The administration is still working out how to make available free coverage to anyone who claimed unemployment over the last year, as the new law allows.

ii. State All Payer Claims Databases Advisory Committee

- As part of the end of year spending package, a provision required the Secretary of Labor to establish a State All Payer Claims Databases Advisory Committee within 90 days of enactment.
- Statute requires the Secretary to convene 9 member including a committee chair, members from various federal agencies, and a state APCD rep. The Comptroller General is also required to appoint 6 members of the public.

- The Federal Register Notice has now been published announcing the establishment of the committee. More information can be found here: <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/ebsa/about-ebsa/about-us/state-all-payer-claims-databases-advisory-committee>.

iii. Mergers

- The American Hospital Association would like the Department of Justice to investigate the proposed merger between UnitedHealth and tech firm Change Healthcare.
- The AHA sent a [letter](#) earlier this week, arguing that if UHC acquires Change's data it will give the insurer too great an advantage--especially in reimbursement negotiations.

IV. Nutrition CARE Act

- The REDC is supporting the Eating Disorders Coalition's legislative initiative, the Nutrition CARE Act.
- The bill would provide coverage for medical nutrition therapy (dietitian services) under Medicare Part B for eating disorders outpatient treatment.
- The EDC led an organizational support letter that was sent to the committees of jurisdiction earlier this week.
 - The REDC Consortium supported the letter in addition to 30+ MH/SUD organizations.
 - A copy of the letter is attached.

Have a happy weekend!
Allison & the Center Road Solutions Team