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Hello REDC Members,

Here is this week's policy update.

Telehealth

[Health Affairs Study](#) Looks at Interstate Telehealth Use Among Medicare Beneficiaries

- Quarterly visits across state lines surged from a median of 1,611 between 2017 and 2019 to about 100,000 by the final two quarters of 2020.
 - Out of state visits represented just 5% of all virtual care visits in 2020.
 - Most out-of-state visits were for established patient-clinician relationships. Rural patients were also more likely to use virtual care between states.
 - Most states saw fewer than 1% of overall visits virtually across state lines, but it was much higher for Washington, D.C., New Hampshire and Vermont.

General Healthcare

Republicans Look Toward New Health Care Policy

- Republicans are hopeful of securing a congressional majority and are starting to put together proposals that will tackle the opioid crisis, modernize the health care system, lower costs and empower patients.
- GOP Leader Kevin McCarthy has established task forces—including the Healthy Futures Task Force—to develop proposals ahead of the midterm elections this fall.
- The proposals released so far include capping out-of-pocket drug costs for seniors, maintaining some telehealth flexibilities ushered in by the COVID-19 PHE and permanently criminalizing synthetic fentanyl drugs.
- Rep. Guthrie (R-KY), who co-chairs the task force with Rep. Buchanan (R-FL) sidestepped a question at a recent roundtable about whether Republicans would return to repeal and replace of the ACA.
 - “We want things that are going to work,” he said. “If we really want to get things done that are going to make a difference in people’s lives, then we have to do things that fit our principles ... and we can get Democrat support.”
- The Healthy Future Task Force has 17 members and five subcommittees that focus on different areas – including affordability, pandemic preparedness and improvements in treatments and technologies.
 - Three of the five subcommittees have unveiled one-page summaries of their policy proposals, with the other two to come later this month,

according to two congressional offices. The released outlines include a mix of specific policy goals and more vague pronouncements.

Have a great weekend!

Center Road Solutions Team