

12/09/2022

Good evening REDC Members,

Below is your weekly policy update. We wish each of you a wonderful weekend!

Warmly,
Center Road Solutions Team

Telehealth

Telehealth Access for Some Insurance Plan Subscribers Could Get More Expensive in January

- If Congress doesn't act, high-deductible health plans (HDHP) wouldn't be able to cover telehealth visits before patients hit their deductibles after December 31.
- Democrats view extending the policy as a Republican as and want new funding for climate-change resiliency for health care institutions in return.
- Around 30 million Americans are enrolled in a HDHP and around 90% of HDHPs that were members of the ERISA Industry Committee took advantage of the telehealth provision this year, up from more than 80% in 2021 and more than 60% in April 2020.

Parity

National Defense Authorization Act of 2023

- The U.S. House of Representatives passed the NDAA this week, which includes a provision requiring the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to review whether TRICARE conforms with the requirements of certain mental health parity laws.
- A summary of the provisions can be viewed [here](#).

Insurance

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Proposes Rule To Speed Prior Auth Process

- CMS has a proposed rule out to require Medicare Advantage plans and other public payers (i.e., those managing state Medicaid plans) to implement an electronic process for approving medical treatments.
- If finalized, the prior authorization rule aims to reduce delays in care by requiring insurers to respond to providers' treatment request more quickly.
- The proposed rule is expected to be less expensive for the government than a bill to reform the prior authorization process proposed in the Senate.
- The agency is taking comments through March 13 and the proposed rule can be read [here](#).

Sign On Letters

Kids Mental Health Now Act (S. 4747)

- The REDC joined the Children's Hospital Association in a letter of support for the bipartisan Kids Mental Health Now Act.
- The legislation would incentivize states to increase Medicaid reimbursement for pediatric MH/SUD treatment services, providing direct support to the pediatric behavioral health workforce and improving access to children's mental health care.

Letter to Drug Enforcement Agency to Finalize Proposed Rule

- The REDC joined the Alliance for Connected Care and more than 300 additional stakeholders in a letter to the DEA urging the agency to advance the proposed rule which would enable a practitioner to deliver, distribute, dispense, or prescribe via telemedicine a controlled substance to a patient who has not been medically examined in-person by the prescribing practitioner.
- The letter can be found [here.](#)