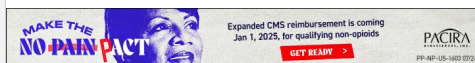




AMCP Comments on Medicare CY 2025 Physician Fee Schedule

On July 31, CMS unveiled a proposed rule covering the CY 2025 Physician Fee Schedule, changes to Part B payment and coverage policies, and the Medicare Prescription Drug Inflation Rebate program, among other policies. Of note, the proposed rule outlined CMS's intent to authorize Medicare payment of digital mental health treatment devices (DMHTs), which includes several Prescription Digital Therapeutics (PDTs). CMS specifically proposes coverage for products that are cleared by the FDA as a computerized behavioral therapy (CBT) device for psychiatric disorders under 21 CFR 882.5801. In a comment letter submitted on Sept. 9, AMCP offers support for the coverage proposal and encourages CMS to expand its coverage criteria to include PDTs approved or cleared by the FDA to treat, manage, or diagnose conditions beyond those affecting behavioral health. AMCP's comments also encourage CMS to clarify the products that will be classified as DMHTs and to clarify how DMHTs will be valued under the proposed coverage framework.

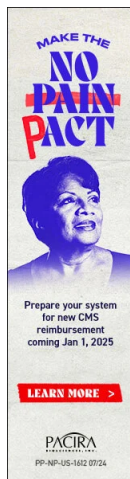
[Read the Comments](#)



House Judiciary Committee Holds Hearing on The Role of Pharmacy Benefit Managers

On Sept. 11, the House Judiciary Subcommittee on the Administrative State, Regulatory Reform, and Antitrust held a hearing to examine the role of Pharmacy Benefit Managers in the healthcare industry. The hearing featured testimonies from several academic researchers, including AMCP member Dr. Joey Mattingly, Vice Chair of Research at the University of Utah College of Pharmacy. During the hearing, Dr. Mattingly shared his expertise on PBM's role in providing access to and shaping the pricing of medication, reinforcing the complexity and intricacy of the pharmaceutical pricing process in the United States. Committee members challenged the vertical integration of PBMs and their influence on independent pharmacies, as well as the effect of PBM business practices on patient costs. The Committee's questioning, coupled with a July House Oversight hearing featuring PBM executives, hints toward Congress' ever-growing appetite for PBM reform legislation.

[Watch the House Judiciary Hearing](#)



AMCP Publishes Legislative Update on California Senate Bill 966

On Aug. 29, the California State Senate passed [SB 966](#), sending one of the most significant state-level PBM reform bills to the desk of Governor Gavin Newsom (D). Following the bill's passage, AMCP published an update on the bill's proposed provisions. SB 966 mandates that PBMs implement transparency requirements, including annual reporting on contracts and revenues, costly drugs, and product benefits. The bill also requires PBMs to pass through price concessions to contracted health plans, register with the state Department of Insurance, and other measures intended to limit unfair trade practices and establish a duty of care on the part of the PBM. Failure to comply with these provisions would result in civil penalties, such as the revocation of a PBM's license or monetary fines. However, several amendments diluted the bill's scope, removing provisions that would have banned spread pricing, applied the legislation to health plans established under collective bargaining agreements, and expedited the bill's implementation. Governor Newsom has until Sept. 30 to veto the legislation, which he has done for several previous measures of PBM reform.

[Read the Full Update](#)

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[Read the Full Update](#)

AMCP Advocacy and Policy Committee Applications Now Open

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The call for AMCP Public Policy Committee and Legislative and Regulatory Action Committee applications is now open, with applications due by Nov. 2, 2024. AMCP's Public Policy Committee develops public policy position statements and resources regarding state and federal legislation and regulations consistent with AMCP's mission. AMCP's Legislative and Regulatory Action Committee focuses on effective advocacy of AMCP's position relative to current and anticipated state and federal legislative and regulatory issues consistent with the mission of AMCP. These committee members also attend AMCP's Legislative Days fly-in advocacy event in Washington D.C. held from Mon. May 12 to Weds. May 14, 2025. These positions are only open to AMCP members. Members who are not selected are encouraged to apply for AMCP's [Pharmacy Advocacy Leaders](#) program to support the organization's policy priorities.

[Apply Now](#)

2024 Election Update: Vice President Harris, Former President Trump Express Healthcare Positions at Presidential Debate

On Sept. 10, presidential candidates Kamala Harris and Donald Trump took to the stage to debate pressing policy issues, including positions on the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and prescription drug pricing. In discussing the ACA, the Vice President reiterated her intention to preserve the landmark legislation, while espousing the Biden-Harris administration's track record of strengthening and protecting the law. Donald Trump, whose former administration supported attempts to appeal the ACA, shared little detail on concrete plans to repeal or amend the law should he be reelected this year. Vice President Harris also defended the drug pricing provisions of the Inflation Reduction Act, which she cast the tie-breaking vote for in the Senate two years ago. She specifically pointed to impacts of the \$2,000 annual Medicare out-of-pocket cap, \$35 per month cap on insulin costs, and price negotiation of certain drugs for Medicare beneficiaries. The candidates also faced several questions regarding abortion, with the former President claiming credit for the overturning of Roe v. Wade and Vice President Harris declaring support for legislation that would establish nationwide access to abortion care. A recent [Pew Research poll](#) found that 65% of surveyed voters regard healthcare as a "very important" factor in determining their vote in the 2024 election.

[Read AMCP's 2024 Presidential Election Outlook](#)

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