**Announcements**

**GAO Announces MedPAC Appointments**
On May 21, the Government Accountability Office announced new members and reappointments of current members to MedPAC. Michael Chernew, PhD from Harvard Medical School, is returning as chairman, following a previous appointment as commissioner from 2008-2014. David Grabowski, PhD, and Dana Gelb Safran, ScD, were both reappointed. New commissioners include Wayne Riley, MD, MPH, MBA, President of SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University; and Betty Rambur, PhD, RN from the University of Rhode Island. Their terms will expire in April 2023. Terms are expiring for the current Chairman Francis Cross, MD, and members Kathy Buto and Warner Thomas, President and CEO of Ochsner Health.

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**HRSA Notice of Funding Opportunity for FY 2021 CHGME Payment Program**
On May 18, HRSA announced a notice of funding opportunity for the FY 2021 Children’s Hospital Graduate Medical Education (CHGME) Payment Program. HRSA anticipates approximately $320 million to fund between 58 and 65 awardees comprised of currently eligible or newly qualified hospitals. However, the precise amount of funding for the CHGME Payment will not be determined until FY 2021 federal appropriations are finalized. The notice of funding details award information, applicant eligibility, and required application content. Phase 1 of applications are due by July 24; Phase 2 of applications are due by August 28.

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**Amicus Brief to Supreme Court Supporting ACA**
The AAMC, along with other hospital associations, submitted an amicus brief to the Supreme Court in the case of *Texas v. U.S.* the lawsuit filed by a group of states and several individuals that challenges the constitutionality of the entire Affordable Care Act (ACA) because Congress zeroed out the individual mandate penalty. The brief argues that the individual mandate is severable from the remainder of the ACA as demonstrated by the fact that the remainder of the Act was left to stand when Congress removed the individual mandate penalty. The brief also explains the disastrous and wide-ranging consequences throughout the entire health care system that would occur should the Supreme Court decide that the entire ACA is unconstitutional, including the millions of people who would be left without health insurance. This, in turn, “would strain hospitals’ ability to serve vulnerable populations.” The case is expected to be argued in the fall 2020 term, with a decision expected to be issued towards the end of the calendar year.

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**Proposed Rules**
On May 11, CMS released the Inpatient Prospective Payment System (IPPS) proposed rule that contains changes to Medicare payment policies and IPPS rates for FY 2021. The rule contains proposed changes to payment and quality provisions, including a proposal to expand CMS’ definition of a “displaced resident” in response to the AAMC’s outreach efforts to CMS requesting flexibility for residents that transfer to other teaching hospitals in the event of a hospital or program hospital. Under the proposal, a resident would be considered “displaced” beginning the day the hospital or program closure is publicly announced, eliminating the requirement to be on site the day before or the day of the actual hospital or program closure. AAMC will provide comments on the proposed rule, due July 10, 2020.
Letters Submitted
Letter to CMS on Future of Telehealth Flexibilities
On May 14, the AAMC sent a letter to CMS Administrator Seema Verma urging the administration and Congress to make changes to legislation and regulations to make permanent some of the telehealth waivers and flexibilities that were put in place during the COVID-19 public health emergency. In the letter, the AAMC thanked Administrator Verma for the actions CMS has taken during the COVID-19 pandemic to provide regulatory relief and flexibility specifically related to telehealth and other communication technology-based services, which have increased the ability of teaching hospitals and faculty physicians to expand care to patients.

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Coalition Letter to CMS on ACO Support During COVID-19
On May 14, the AAMC and eight other leading health care organizations sent a letter to CMS Administrator Verma asking for changes to support accountable care organizations (ACOs) during the COVID-19 pandemic. The groups emphasized the importance of maintaining participation in alternative payment models.

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