



Action Needed from Congress on Critical Health Priorities Before the End of 2024

Before the end of the 118th Congress, ACP is calling for Congress to pass two important bills to support internal medicine physicians and improve access to care for our patients.

Pass the Telehealth Modernization Act (H.R. 7623)

This bill would extend telehealth flexibilities established during COVID-19 public health emergency for 2 years through December 2026. A permanent extension of telehealth flexibilities is preferred, but recognizing the need to extend it this year, we are asking Congress to pass the Telehealth Modernization Act of 2024 this year.

The bill includes the removal of geographic restrictions, expansion of originating sites required for telehealth visits, and audio-only telehealth access. It would also allow for Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) to continue providing telehealth service, and reform pharmacy benefit manager (PBM) practices by improving transparency, accountability, and competition in PBM practices.

Pass the Physician Fee Schedule Update and Improvements Act and the Physician Fee Stabilization Act (H.R. 6545/S. 4935)

These bills would provide the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) more flexibility in setting payment rates, updating average costs doctors incur in calculating reimbursement and making payments more predictable. The bills would require CMS to raise the budget neutrality threshold to \$53 million from \$20 million and would use cumulative increases in the Medicare Economic Index (MEI) to update the threshold every five years afterwards.

The \$20 million threshold was established in 1992 and has not been updated since. Raising the budget-neutrality threshold would allow for greater flexibility in determining pricing adjustments for services without triggering across-the-board cuts in Medicare physician pay due to budget neutrality.