

SGR Repeal, CHIP Reauthorization, and Medigap Limits Among Key Items in House Medicare Plan

Major Proposed Initiatives in Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (H.R. 2)

Current Law	Proposed Under H.R. 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medicare SGR cuts physician payment rates in an attempt to tie Medicare payment increases to GDP growth • Annual 'doc fixes' have prevented these cuts from taking effect 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medicare SGR would be repealed • Provider payments would: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Increase 0.5% per year through 2019 – Freeze at 2019 rates through 2025 – Grow at different rates based on providers' payment methods after 2025
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medicare Part B and Part D plans require individuals to pay a percentage of plan costs as a premium • That percentage increases for individuals in high-income brackets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More high-income individuals are subject to higher rates after 2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) expires on September 30, 2015 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CHIP would be funded through September 30, 2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seniors may purchase private Medigap plans to help cover deductibles for Medicare Part B 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Starting January 1, 2020, Medigap plans which cover Part B deductibles cannot be sold to newly eligible Medicare beneficiaries
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal regulations will require individual claims and copayments for each outpatient visit after surgery for Medicare beneficiaries starting in 2017 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This regulation would not go into effect and outpatient claims would be bundled with surgery based on recovery length; \$2 million would be allocated to research outpatient surgery costs and visits