ACADEMY ALERT AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ACTUARIES

Objective. Independent. Effective.™

HEALTH ISSUES

April 4, 2022

U.S. House of Representatives Passes Affordable Insulin Now Act

On March 31, 2022, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill (H.R. 6833 Affordable Insulin Now Act) with a dozen Republican members joining all Democrats (232-193) voting in favor. The bill would cap out-of-pocket costs for Insulin products for people with private coverage and Medicare Part D. Beginning in 2023, the bill would cap monthly out-of-pocket (OOP) costs at the lower of \$35 or the amount equal to 25% of the plan's negotiated price (after price concessions). The bill would cap costs on a wide variety of insulin products including rapid acting, short acting, intermediate acting, ultra long-acting, or premixed, as well as costs of the form of administration including vials, pumps, or inhalers. In limited circumstances (e.g., out-of-network provider administration), the bill would permit additional cost-sharing. As currently written, it is unclear how this cap would impact people with Health Savings Account (HSA)-qualified high-deductible plans or Medicare Advantage coverage.

If enacted, the bill could raise overall premiums but lower OOP costs for people with diabetes. This bill now heads to the U.S. Senate for consideration, where its fate is uncertain. The Academy's Health Care Delivery Committee is currently working on a paper discussing the effects of insulin prices and the impact on out-of-pocket costs and health plan spending.

If you have any questions regarding this *Academy Alert*, please contact Marietta Richman, Legislative and Regulatory Analyst (<u>richman@actuary.org</u>; 202 617-9011).

© Copyright 2022 American Academy of Actuaries. All Rights Reserved