



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
U.S. Congress
Washington, DC 20515

Phillip L. Swagel, Director

March 22, 2024

Honorable Diana Harshbarger
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Jill Tokuda
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Re: CBO's Timeline for Providing a Preliminary Analysis of H.R. 1770

Dear Representatives Harshbarger and Tokuda:

You have asked about the Congressional Budget Office's timeline for providing a preliminary analysis of H.R. 1770, the Equitable Community Access to Pharmacist Services Act, which would expand coverage under Medicare's Part B to include certain clinical services delivered by pharmacists. We expect to be able to provide you with an estimated range of the bill's budgetary effects by the end of June 2024.

With some minor exceptions, Medicare does not now pay for clinical services delivered by pharmacists. H.R. 1770 would allow pharmacists to bill Medicare for the evaluation and management of certain conditions, including influenza. The bill also would allow pharmacists to bill Medicare directly for providing certain vaccinations.

Completing a preliminary analysis of the budgetary effects of H.R. 1770 has presented CBO with several analytical challenges: We are working to identify the range of clinical services that would be covered by Medicare under the bill and the total cost to cover those services. We then must assess the extent to which the services would substitute for care currently provided by other professionals. That complex analysis will take us a few more months.

Honorable Diana Harshbarger and Honorable Jill Tokuda

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I hope this information is useful to you. Please contact me if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phillip L. Swagel", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Phillip L. Swagel
Director

cc: Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Chair
House Committee on Energy and Commerce

Honorable Frank Pallone Jr.
Ranking Member
House Committee on Energy and Commerce

Honorable Jason Smith
Chairman
House Committee on Ways and Means

Honorable Richard E. Neal
Ranking Member
House Committee on Ways and Means

Honorable Adrian Smith
House of Representatives