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More States Implement Surprise Medical Billing Protections

During the 2019 legislative session, more states advanced protections for consumers against surprise medical balance bills – charges for unexpected, out-of-network medical care. To date, four new states (CO, NV, NM, WA) have joined [other states](#) in enacting multi-pronged policies that prohibit balance bills, establish processes for providers and carriers to resolve billing disputes, and require more pricing transparency to avoid surprise balance bills. This [NASHP chart](#) provides highlights of these new state laws.



Feds Consider Changes to Inflation Calculation in Poverty Measures

The Office of Management and Budget is considering changes to how the federal poverty measure is annually adjusted for inflation. The changes would impact eligibility for numerous programs, including Medicaid, the Children’s Health Insurance Program, marketplace subsidies, and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), because the adjustment directly affects poverty level guidelines. Read a [blog](#) about the proposed changes. Comments are due by June 21, 2019.



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#NASHPCONF19 Explores State Strategies to Combat Rising Drug Costs

Faced with escalating drug prices, states can explore new strategies to regulate the prescription drug industry and lower consumers’ drug costs at three events at NASHP’s 32nd Annual State Health Policy Conference, Aug. 21-23, 2019, in Chicago. Topics include drug importation from Canada, affordability review boards, Medicaid models, and more. A daylong, preconference examines the challenges states face and effective strategies to overcome them. Policymakers will also discuss recent legislative approaches, including regulating pharmacy benefit managers, leveraging state purchasing power, and reducing consumers’ costs. There will also be a summit for only state policymakers and legislators to give officials an off-the-record opportunity to share ideas and ask questions.

- **The Latest State Actions to Tackle Rx Prices, and What’s Next? (Preconference):**
8 a.m-4 p.m. (CT) Wednesday, Aug. 21, 2019
- **New Recipes to Control Rx Pricing:**
10-11:30 a.m. (CT) Thursday, Aug. 22, 2019
- **State-Only Summit on Rx Pricing: Debrief and Next Steps (Open to state officials only – preregistration required):**
3:30-5 p.m. (CT) Thursday, Aug. 22, 2019

[Register](#) to join these sessions!



Ten States Selected to Attend Palliative Care Summit in Chicago

NASHP is pleased to announce the 10 states selected to attend the State Policymakers Palliative Care Summit, supported by a grant from The John A. Hartford Foundation. Policymakers, including legislators as well as Medicaid and public health officials from Arizona, California, Hawaii, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, and Texas, will participate in the day-long summit where they will learn from national and state experts about strategies to improve access to and quality of palliative care. For more information about palliative care, explore NASHP’s [Palliative Care Resource Hub](#) and sign up for its [palliative care listserv](#).



#NASHPCONF19 EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT

#NASHPCONF19 Early Bird Registration Rates End July 19!

The early bird gets the discount! Register to attend NASHP’s 32nd Annual State Health Policy Conference by Friday, July 19, 2019, to enjoy discounted registration rates! #NASHPCONF19 is held Aug. 21-23, 2019 in Chicago, and is a must-attend event where state health policymakers tackle cutting-edge issues, including prescription drug pricing, social determinants of health, health care costs, surprise medical billing, market segmentation, substance use disorders, behavioral health, and more! View the [full agenda](#) and [register](#) today!



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