



Nursing Home Weekly Recap

June 18, 2026

Nursing Home Network Call: Tuesday, June 30, 2 p.m. ET. Join our monthly Nursing Home Network call on Tuesday, June 30 at 2 p.m. ET. We will review the latest nursing home updates, followed by time for feedback and discussion among members. The Nursing Home Network meets on the last Tuesday of each month and is open to all LeadingAge provider members. Register for the Network [here](#) using your LeadingAge login.

National Policy Pulse Call. Join over 1,000 of your LeadingAge peers for our National Policy Pulse calls where we keep members equipped to navigate the ever-evolving landscape of aging services national policy. The calls are Mondays at 3:30 p.m. ET. If you're interested in signing up for these members-only calls, please sign up using [the link on our National Policy Pulse webpage](#).

New Section 1115 Guidance Released. On June 11, the [Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services \(CMS\) released a state Medicaid director's letter on budget neutrality and section 1115 waivers](#). One-third of Medicaid spending runs through section 1115 waivers. HR 1 required that the CMS Chief Actuary certifies that Medicaid section 1115 waivers are budget neutral compared to the cost of running a Medicaid program absent the waiver. CMS says in the letter: "Overall, CMS's intended approach to implementing section 1115(g) is tied to CMS's current policy goals: ideally, section 1115 demonstrations should deliver better outcomes and operate as, or more, efficiently than the existing Medicaid program. This includes an approach to budget neutrality that is expected to reduce overall expenditures in section 1115 demonstrations, thereby reducing federal outlays." This appears to deviate from the existing approach of budget neutrality with a greater focus on achieving cost savings, but CMS notes there will be additional guidance, details and technical assistance prior to their change in approach which starts Jan 1, 2027. LeadingAge is reviewing the letter in more detail and will provide more analysis as needed.

DHS Proposes Further Work Authorization Restrictions. As mentioned on the June 8 [National Policy Pulse](#) call, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has published a notice of proposed rule making, which if finalized without modification, would likely create new uncertainty at multiple points in the employment cycle—at the hiring stage, at renewal of work authorization documents, and in the event of an unanticipated status change. For more information on the proposed rule including potential effects on members and what we suggest members do at this time, see our article: [DHS Proposes Further Work Authorization Restrictions for Foreign-Born Staff](#).

LeadingAge article "New OIG Findings Underscore Barriers to SNF Care in Medicare Advantage." Here is an [article link](#) detailing the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) report findings related to Medicare Advantage plan prior authorization denials, appeals and overturns in skilled nursing facilities issued June 11.

PAC MA Coalition Issues State on OIG Report on Prior Authorizations in PAC. The Post Acute Care Medicare Advantage (PAC MA) Coalition issued a statement regarding the two Office of the Inspector (OIG) reports recently issued on Medicare Advantage (MA) organization's denials of prior authorizations for PAC services noting our advocacy for reforms to prior authorizations and MA to ensure beneficiaries

receive the services they both need and for which they are eligible. In the statement, the coalition renewed its call for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to standardize and expedite these processes across MA plans and ensure greater transparency and oversight of these plan practices. LeadingAge is a member of and leads the work of the PAC MA Coalition. The full statement can be found [here](#).