

Home Health Weekly Recap

June 18, 2026



Weekly National Policy Pulse Calls. Join more than 1000 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 on 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](#).

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 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](#).

CMS Issues Final Rule on Accrediting Organizations. On June 12, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) [released](#) a final rule intended to improve healthcare quality and patient safety through enhanced oversight of Accrediting Organizations (AO). The Strengthening Oversight of AO and Preventing AO Conflicts of Interest Final Rule ensures that the organizations responsible for the oversight of more than 9,000 healthcare providers and suppliers use Medicare standards, and creates greater consistency between State Survey Agencies (SAs) and AOs in their respective survey processes. Home health and hospice agencies can be accredited by these organizations, however skilled nursing facilities may not. In 2024, LeadingAge [submitted](#) comments on the proposed rule, supporting a number of proposals but stressing that some proposals may restrict AOs from providing beneficial education and support to improve long-term compliance. Overall, the rule seeks to prevent conflicts of interest, ensure alignment between AOs and other surveyors, improve AO performance, and ensure AOs remain independent reviewers. LeadingAge will have further analysis on the rule and the impacts to home health and hospice agencies in the coming week.

HHS OIG Focus: Duplicate VA and Medicaid Payments. On June 10, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Inspector General (OIG) announced a new workplan project focusing on the potential for duplicative payment by Medicaid for covered services in the Veteran's Administration (VA) Community Care Benefit. Because Medicaid is the payer of last resort, VA should be billed for services where a veteran is dually eligible for VA and Medicaid benefits. While it is unlikely that provider members receive reimbursement from both programs, it is foreseeable that a provider would select to bill Medicaid instead of VA because of challenges with service authorizations and the VA's third-party administrators. This creates a challenge for the VA and state Medicaid agencies, though could also have provider-level implications. We will watch for more from the OIG on this [work-plan item](#).

LTSS Center: Honoring Older Adults' Care Preferences Improves Health Outcomes. Listening to older adults about their care preferences—or failing to—can have important impacts on health outcomes and costs, say LeadingAge LTSS Center @UMass Boston researchers. When preferences are overlooked, especially among people of color and those with limited incomes and/or complex health needs, it is more likely for health outcomes to suffer and costs to increase. Learn more about the LTSS Center's work done in partnership with The SCAN Foundation and Community Catalyst—[including key findings, research reports, and actionable insights](#).

New National Council on Aging Reports Explore AI's Impact on Direct Care. A series of three reports, A New Era of Care, from the National Council On Aging (NCOA) addresses topics including the importance of artificial intelligence (AI) for home and community-based services; how AI is already reducing administrative and operational burden in direct care; and perspectives from stakeholders about how AI affects the responsibilities of home care workers today and what guardrails are needed for the future. Notes the Center for Aging Services Technologies' (CAST) Scott Code, a report contributor: "Generative AI probably has the most immediate potential for the home care workforce—especially in leveling the playing field." [Read the findings.](#)

Cybersecurity Step One: Take a HIPAA Security Risk Analysis. Cyber threats remain a constant concern for healthcare settings—especially aging services providers—and LeadingAge members know that defending against attacks, protecting data, and maintaining cybersecurity resiliency is essential. A key tool is the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Security Rule risk analysis. Far from a one-time checklist, it's an ongoing process of cataloging systems, pinpointing vulnerabilities, and implementing safeguards. [Get an overview of the tool here.](#)

Last Week's Recap Update. Here is the June 12, 2026 [Home Health Update.](#)