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Managed Care Pharmacies Step Up Lobby For Medicare Lock-In Program

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The Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy is pushing lawmakers to advance policies locking at-risk beneficiaries into certain prescribers or pharmacies and to give managed care organizations access to drug management program data. The group's members plan to meet with more than 120 congressional offices this week.

"[W]e are confident that our message will get through this week and our proposals will gain congressional support," AMCP CEO Edith Rosato says in a statement.

Pew Charitable Trusts, which has also been pushing for Medicare lock-in programs, previously said there is support in Congress to move these policies. A lock-in proposal is included in the House-passed 21st Century Cures bill and in the Stopping Medication Abuse and Protecting Seniors Act pending in the Senate. HHS' fiscal 2016 budget request includes a similar policy, as well.

AMCP officials have noted that the Senate version of the policy would enroll beneficiaries in a lock-in program more quickly than would the House version.

The academy also supports changes to legislation reauthorizing the National All Schedules Prescription Electronic Reporting Reauthorization Act that would give managed care organizations access to real-time data from prescription drug management programs. AMCP says currently such information is only available to prescribers, pharmacists, providers and law enforcement.

AMCP also is looking for a sponsor for legislation the group says would help fight Part D fraud by letting HHS suspend Part D claims based on a credible allegation of fraud. HHS already has authority to suspend Part A and Part B claims for a credible allegation of fraud, and Medicaid programs can suspend these claims as well. -- *Michelle M. Stein*

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