HealthBeat
from CONGRESSIONAL QUARTERLY

SINCE THE NEWSLETTER

MORNING TAKES
Elections Likely to Jolt Congress
Republicans poised to register gains in the House and Senate; CMS finalizes updates on 2015 Medicare provider payments. Full Story

Health Centers Push for Remedy to Avoid Funding ‘Cliff’
A top lobbyist for community health centers said congressional Republicans are coming around to the idea of preventing a possible 70 percent drop in federal funding to the facilities set to hit next fall. Full Story

Doctors Face a 21.2% Medicare Cuts in 2015 Without a New ‘Doc Fix,’ CMS Says
Medicare on Friday released its final rule on 2015 payments for many physician services, projecting a 21.2 percent reduction in doctors’ fees next year unless Congress enacts another “doc-fix” measure forestalling the cuts. Full Story

Medicare Finalizes Dialysis Quality Plan, Role of Bidding Program on Equipment Rates
Medicare on Friday unveiled the final version of its 2015 rule covering payments for dialysis services and durable medical equipment, including hearing aids. Full Story

Medicare Sets 2.3 Percent Increase for Hospital Outpatient Services
Medicare on Friday said that it expects a total increase in its payments for outpatient services from hospitals to rise by 2.3 percent in 2015. Full Story

AFTERNOON BRIEFING

HHS Inspector General Finds Fodder in Health Insurance Subsidies
The Department of Health and Human Services’ inspector general could issue up to 16 reports this year on insurance offered under the health care law, including whether health plans and U.S. residents are getting the correct subsidies to offset the cost of coverage. Full Story

Medicare Eases Portion of Anti-Fraud Rule for Home Health Visits
Medicare has largely waived part of a requirement designed to prevent fraudulent claims for home health services, in response to concerns that it was too cumbersome. Full Story

FROM THE CQ NEWSROOM

Hotlined Sunscreen Bill Offers Formula for Legislative Success
A Congress that’s largely gridlocked over the health care law, the response to the Ebola threat and spending on biomedical research can at least agree on this much: The country needs a better process for approving suntan lotions. Full Story

FROM THE CQ NEWSROOM

Elections Could Bring Changes for Senate Democratic Appropriaators
The election could bring significant changes to the Senate Appropriations Committee, particularly on the Democratic side, regardless of who ends up controlling the chamber. Full Story