

The Washington Debrief will not be published on June 30 or July 7 due to the July 4th Holiday. Publication will resume on July 14.



THE WASHINGTON DEBRIEF



June 23, 2025

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Webinars and Member Engagement

CHIME Submits Comments on CMS & ASTP/ONC RFI on Health Technology Ecosystem

Key Takeaway: CHIME has [submitted comments](#) in response to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and Assistant Secretary for Technology Policy/Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT (ASTP/ONC) request for information (RFI) on the “[Health Technology Ecosystem](#).”

Why It Matters: Our recommendations emphasize 1) expanding Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement (TEFCA) participation through incentives and governance; 2) advancing a national strategy for patient identification and matching; 3) supporting under-resourced providers, including LTPAC and safety-net settings; and 4) ensuring accountability for digital identity and third-party data access.

[Read Comments Here](#)

Free Webinar

The MATCH IT Act: Charting a Path to Accurate Patient Matching

LIVE EVENT | July 8, 2025 | Noon CT



Register Now for Webinar on the MATCH IT Act!

Key Takeaway: Join CHIME and the Patient ID Now coalition for a webinar on July 8th exploring current challenges with patient identification and matching, including decreased patient safety and privacy, and increased costs to providers and patients.

Why It Matters: Learn about the MATCH IT Act of 2025 ([cheat sheet](#)) – which provides ways to improve patient matching through improved standards and definitions, and how you can help support this legislation.

[Register Here](#)

Congressional

Senate Eyes Floor Action on Reconciliation

Key Takeaway: Congress will be back in session this week as Senate Republicans race to send their reconciliation package to President Trump's desk for signature by July 4. Over the past week, Senate Parliamentarian Elizabeth MacDonough has been scrubbing the Senate's sweeping reconciliation package for anything that violates the so-called "Byrd" rule, where any provision deemed to not have a budgetary impact is disqualified from inclusion within the filibuster-proof legislation.

Why It Matters: As it currently stands, Senate Republicans have to go back to the drawing board with respect to several key provisions in the Judiciary, Homeland Security, Agriculture, and Banking Committee titles. Early this week, we're expecting further rulings on key provisions within the Finance Committee title, though this could shift as bipartisan arguments before the Parliamentarian are slipping into today.

What's Next: Discussions among Senate Republicans will continue throughout the coming days as the Conference pushes to get a reconciliation bill passed and sent back over to the House for a final vote. Soon, the Budget Committee will begin assembling the full package for floor consideration. The bill will then move under expedited reconciliation rules, allowing for up to 20 hours of debate followed by a "vote-a-rama" on unlimited amendments. A simple majority (typically 51 votes) is needed for final passage. If the Senate-passed version differs from the House bill, both chambers will need to reconcile their differences before the final package can be sent to the President. Notably, Majority Leader Thune said that the Senate will stay in session until the reconciliation bill is passed, thus increasing the likelihood of weekend votes or next week's state work period getting cancelled.

AI Moratorium Survives Byrd Rule

Key Takeaway: The moratorium on states' enforcement of AI laws and regulations has survived the Byrd Rule, meaning that it will remain in the reconciliation package, for now. Sen. Josh Hawley (R-MO) has already pledged to partner with Democrats on an amendment to scrap this provision during the forthcoming "vote-a-rama." Several other Republicans have expressed concerns as well.

Why It Matters: The Senate Commerce Committee, under Sen. Ted Cruz's (R-TX) leadership, rewrote the House provision so that it could remain in the package, tying federal aid (specifically \$500 million in funding for the Broadband, Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program) to states that agree not to regulate AI over the next 10 years.

This provision can be found in Section 0012 of the Senate Commerce Committee's [bill text](#) and explained [here](#) in a section-by-section summary.

FDA Releases New White Paper on Securing OT in Medical Devices

Key Takeaway: The Food & Drug Administration (FDA) has released a new white paper, [Securing Technology and Equipment \(Operational Technology\) Used for Medical Product Manufacturing](#).

Why It Matters: According [to the FDA](#), manufacturing infrastructure increasingly includes numerous connected devices, considered OT, which have historically been designed to prioritize consistent functionality over cybersecurity. Consequently, it is sometimes difficult to tell what, when, and where network communications occur – potentially increasing the risk of a cybersecurity incident. Making state-of-the-art cybersecurity standards part of industry best practices for manufacturers of all sizes will help to considerably reduce the vulnerability of U.S. medical production and its supply chain.

Interoperability

TEFCA RCE Monthly Informational Calls Resume

Key Takeaway: The TEFCA Recognized Coordinating Entity (RCE) – the Sequoia Project – has resumed monthly informational calls. The public informational calls have been an opportunity for the RCE to share information about the process to-date but had been cancelled since January.

Why It Matters: They resumed on Tuesday, June 17 – you can watch the recording [here](#), and check out the slides [here](#). The next call will be July 15; you can register for the series and find previous call agendas and information [here](#).

Carequality Bimonthly Informational Call This Week

Key Takeaway: Carequality hosts bimonthly informational calls to provide status updates to all members, stakeholders, and interested parties. The call is held on the last Thursday of every other month (June 26) from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. ET.

Why It Matters: You can register for the informational calls [here](#). Slides for each call are posted under '2025 Schedule' to the corresponding dates.

Artificial Intelligence

AHRQ Leveraging Generative AI to Improve Healthcare

Key Takeaway: The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) states that generative artificial intelligence (AI) has the potential to advance healthcare by enhancing diagnostics, personalizing treatment, and improving patient outcomes through data-driven insights. Gen AI can also help healthcare become more accessible and patient centered.

Why It Matters: There are three examples of Digital Healthcare Research Program (DHR)-funded projects that showcase the potential of GenAI to improve shared decision-making, to integrate into primary care, and to optimize care through data-driven treatment guidelines; [LabGenie](#), [Guiding the Safe and Effective Integration of Ambient Digital Scribes into Primary Care](#), and [Identifying Sepsis Phenotypes Associated with Antibiotic-Resistant Pathogens Using LLMs and ML](#). These and [other projects](#) demonstrate the agency's commitment to producing evidence about how to safely and effectively use AI, including GenAI, as it continues to evolve in healthcare.

Policy Team Picks of the Week

- [Senate parliamentary greenlights state AI law freeze in GOP megabill](#) (Politico, June 22)
- [Database leaked 16 billion passwords to Google, Facebook, Apple, report](#) (Axios, June 20)
- [Trump extends TikTok deadline again](#) (Politico, June 17)
- [Aflac duped by social-engineering attack, marking another hit on insurance industry](#) (CyberScoop, June 20)
- [Hospitals stunned by Senate GOP's Medicaid plan](#) (Politico, June 17)
- [Federal cyber insurance backstop should be tied to expiring terrorism insurance law, report recommends](#) (CyberScoop, June 17)



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