



# McDermottPlus Healthcare Preview

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 23, 2020

## COVID-19 VACCINE DEVELOPMENT AND DISTRIBUTION.

### + GOOD NEWS ON COVID-19 VACCINE DEVELOPMENT.

Over the last few weeks, there has been positive news on COVID-19 vaccine development. Currently, there are three vaccines testing at least 90% effective in late-stage trials. This is obviously welcomed and good news, but now we begin the process of planning how to distribute and pay for vaccines. [The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) has outlined a three-phase plan for distribution. Before the end of the year, it is possible that a limited number of vaccines will be available, with priority populations receiving the vaccine first (these priority populations include healthcare providers, essential workers and those most vulnerable to COVID-19). However, the Biden Administration will likely pick up the largest portion of the vaccine distribution process. The Biden team has developed a [COVID-19 task force](#) and is beginning to plan for distribution. States and local governments are also developing their own plans for vaccine distribution. Needless to say, vaccine distribution at this scale will be a massive undertaking for any Administration and any government (federal, state or local). Vaccine payment has also been outlined in the [fourth COVID-19 interim final rule with comment period](#), and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has developed a number of toolkits on the topic. Additionally, reporting and data collection, and the communication process with the public are all important pieces of the puzzle as well.

+ **REGULATION DROP LAST FRIDAY.** Last Friday, November 20, four major healthcare regulations were published. The rules focused on drug pricing and reforms Stark and anti-kickback laws. Of note, last Friday was the final day to issue a rule with a 60-day implementation period that will take effect before Inauguration Day.

#### THIS WEEK IN THE SENATE

The Senate is on recess this week.

#### THIS WEEK IN THE HOUSE

The House of Representatives is on recess this week.

#### CONTACT INFO

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