



Medicare Payment
Advisory Commission

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February 27, 2026

The Honorable Diana Harshbarger
U.S. House of Representatives
167 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Harshbarger:

Thank you for your letter about MedPAC and transparency, public participation at its meetings, and access to the Commission's work. We appreciate the opportunity to address these issues. MedPAC is committed to transparency and to ensuring that the Congress, stakeholders, and the public have meaningful opportunities to engage with the Commission's work. MedPAC's transparency practices span public meetings, publications, and engagement with Members of Congress and their staffs, stakeholder groups, and members of the public.

Live and virtual attendance at MedPAC's public meetings

MedPAC is working on logistics to hold live public comment opportunities and in-person and virtual attendance at its public meetings starting on Friday, April 10, 2026. We will notify the Congress, stakeholder groups, and other members of the public of this opportunity and provide additional information about those plans as we finalize logistics for our April public meeting.

The Commission conducts its work through seven public meetings each year and takes several steps to make those proceedings transparent and accessible to the Congress and members of the public. We share information about upcoming meetings by posting schedules on our website and sending email notifications to individuals who have signed up to receive updates. Before each meeting, we publish an agenda that lists the topics to be discussed and provides brief descriptions of each session so that the Congress, stakeholder groups, and the public know what issues the Commission will consider.

Each public meeting is streamed live online, allowing anyone to observe the Commission's discussions without needing to travel to Washington, DC. During the meeting, staff presentations—including the Chair's draft recommendations—are shared through the webcast platform, and those presentations are posted on our website afterward. We also post a transcript of each meeting within three business days. In addition, the Commission invites public comment at every meeting by soliciting written comments and encouraging stakeholder groups to

meet with MedPAC staff. All written comment letters are shared with commissioners and posted on our website so they are available for public review.

The Commission invites public input at every meeting by encouraging stakeholders to meet with MedPAC staff. MedPAC accepts nearly all meeting requests. In 2024, MedPAC staff met with 120 different stakeholder groups. To maintain transparency in this area, we publish a list of groups we have met with on our website as part of our budget request each year. The list will be updated as part of the submission of our 2027 budget request.¹

Transparency in MedPAC's publications

MedPAC works to ensure our publication process is transparent and accessible to the Congress. We provided your office with all draft meeting materials prior to the March 2026 public meeting, and we will provide draft meeting materials to your office in advance of future public meetings. We also would be happy to brief your staff about the meeting agenda in advance of future public meetings.

The Commission shares draft meeting materials with staffs of the committees with jurisdiction over Medicare, with congressional leadership, and with other government agencies like the Government Accountability Office (GAO) prior to each public meeting to receive feedback. Upon request, we provide draft meeting materials to other congressional offices working on issues related to our public meetings. When we provide these documents, we note that they are internal working documents that have not yet been reviewed by commissioners and ask that they not be distributed. Additionally, prior to each public meeting, we brief the staffs of congressional committees with jurisdiction over Medicare, congressional leadership, and other government agencies to explain the Commission's work, answer questions, and receive feedback.

Meeting materials discussed by commissioners at public meetings are pre-decisional working documents. They have not yet been reviewed and revised by commissioners. Commissioner deliberation and feedback are an essential part of the Commission's process, and MedPAC's publications must appropriately reflect commissioners' input.

After draft chapters have been reviewed by commissioners, but prior to publication, we share the drafts with staff of the congressional committees with jurisdiction over Medicare, with congressional leadership, and with other government agencies to provide another opportunity for feedback. We also ask outside experts with a wide range of relevant expertise and experience to review the draft chapters. Once external feedback has been received, the draft chapters

¹ https://www.medpac.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/MedPAC_FY2026_Budget_Request_SEC.pdf

are revised and reviewed again before final publication on MedPAC's website and submission to Congress.

Opportunities for public comment during the COVID-19 public health emergency

The Commission took several steps to provide opportunities for public comment during the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE). Three times during each virtual public meeting, we invited the public to submit comments to the Commission via email at any time. We continue this practice today. Any comments received are shared with all commissioners. Since November 2023, all comments have also been publicly posted on our website. Throughout the PHE, we also continued posting transcripts of our virtual meetings to our website.

Starting with our first scheduled public meeting during the PHE in September 2020, the Commission began broadcasting meetings online. Our webcasts have led to broader attendance at our public meetings. Online attendance at our January 2026 meeting ranged from about 240 to 300 people. By comparison, in-person attendance at MedPAC public meetings prior to the PHE typically totaled roughly 100 people.

A description of MedPAC's transparency practices is available here on our website: <https://www.medpac.gov/transparency-at-medpac/>

We hope this information is helpful. We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss how the Commission can best serve Congress. We look forward to continuing to be a resource to you and your staff.

Sincerely,



Michael E. Chernew, Ph.D.
Chair



Betty Rambur, Ph.D., R.N., F.A.A.N.
Vice Chair