



## 2020 Election Eve Insights 11/2/20

As we prepare for tomorrow's 2020 election closing day, the Healthsperien team continues to focus on the implications of different outcomes for President and for Congressional control for our clients and the health care system overall. We already have [developed a range of scenarios](#) related to election outcomes and are using this opportunity the night before the election to highlight a few key points. We will be monitoring the results tomorrow and in the coming days in states where there are remaining ballots to be counted, as well as details emerging from exit polls about the importance of health care generally as well as COVID-19 in voting decisions. That information in particular may impact how the next administration approaches their health care agendas and the Congress prioritizes initiatives. We want to highlight the following trends:

- Health care has received substantial attention in the final weeks of the election, showing the continued importance of access to health care services and concerns about paying for care across broad demographics. Both Presidential campaigns – and several high-stakes Senate ones – have stressed the importance of coverage of pre-existing conditions and addressing the prices of prescription drugs. **We expect that solutions to address that underlying anxiety about coverage will have momentum after the election** – though the approaches will vary depending on party control, with the Democrats more interested in those that rely on a greater role for government (e.g., the use of a public plan in the individual market).
- COVID-19 of course has animated the entire election. While the Presidential candidates debated about the topic, the rhetoric was largely limited to competing assessments of Trump administration's performance and how candidates might approach future lockdowns. That said, the policy approaches are likely to be similar as we move toward getting the population access to therapies and potential vaccines. **We will be helping our clients think about strategies to aid in that process and to address broader issues of delayed care and relief for physician practices.**
- No matter the outcome, policy development takes time, particularly for broad changes in the health care system. While we would expect to see rapid moves to initiate a health care agenda and attention in the media particularly in the case of a Biden victory and transition – we believe that process will be complicated and evolve over many months, with opportunities for our clients to offer insights and solutions and develop strategies to enhance business outlook given the policy direction. **We are thinking about ways to move forward with either a Biden transition or individuals set to lead health care during a Trump second-term.**
- Concerns about the implications for the future of the ACA due to the Supreme Court appointment of Justice Barrett played out in the political environment and in the national media and have animated the last days of the race and we expect continued focus in the lead up to oral arguments on November 10<sup>th</sup> (which we will follow closely). That said, we maintain a view that the Court – even in its new composition - likely will be open to the arguments related to the importance of severability of an unconstitutional provision from a broader law. **Our current view is that the ACA likely will remain largely in place after a decision next year, though we will continue to examine alternative scenarios.**

- Crucial federal support for ongoing programs in the health care sector will be affected by decisions about a potential next COVID relief package and plans to address the end of the current continuing resolution (CR). The nature and timing of those important legislative efforts is uncertain and we hope to have more clarity after the election.
- Regardless of the outcome, but especially with a Biden victory, we see continued focus on Medicare as a vehicle for coverage. In a Biden scenario, we expect that Progressives will continue to advance Medicare-for-All type of solutions to influence emerging health care agendas of the new President and Congress and that those efforts will get play in the media and in health care industry verticals. We will be focused on the important details of those solutions as there are many different avenues to explore. **In particular, we will be focused on the implications for the rate environment for providers and health plans and the implications for quality, access to care, and innovation** and ways for our clients to engage on those topics.
- We expect many elements of health policy to remain the same regardless of the outcome of the election – and companies with solutions using data and new technologies to help consumers and support providers will increasingly have a seat at the table.
- Finally, we will continue to focus on ways to advance important ideas for the health sector of interest to our clients. **The Trump administration made inroads to expanding models that improve care at home and social determinants of health, and we expect those to move forward regardless of the outcome. Opportunities exist to highlight solutions to improve mental and behavioral health going forward and we plan to focus on ways to help our clients advance their insights and ideas.**

Healthsperien will reach out again after the election to offer additional thoughts based on our observations. Our focus will remain on the policy implications of the elections, but please reach out to us with other questions about the election results, polls and process as events unfold.