CMS is expected to soon propose payment rules for services provided by physicians, outpatient hospitals, dialysis facilities and durable medical equipment suppliers. The Medicare Physician Fee Schedule rule is unusually important this year because CMS is adding Quality Payment Program updates to it. Also, the Medicare physician fee schedule and hospital outpatient payment rules are considered possible vehicles for Part B drug-cost-cutting proposals.

CMS is also expected to propose an accountable care organization rule soon.

CMS is writing another Part D rule, but that proposed rule is schedule for release in the fall, according to the regulatory agenda.