McConnell Urges CMS To Make ‘Informed’ Coverage Decision On CT Scans

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) is urging CMS to "make an informed, timely decision" about whether Medicare will pay for low-dose CT scans for high-risk individuals. McConnell joins a large bipartisan group of lawmakers in both chambers that strongly imply CMS should cover lung cancer screening using low-dose computed tomography, which is in line with a recommendation by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) but not with that of Medicare coverage advisers. The USPSTF recommended lung cancer screening for high-risk patients, so next year private insurers must cover the exams. CMS considers USPSTF recommendations, but it also looks to its Medicare Evidence Development & Coverage Advisory Committee (MEDCAC) for advice. The MEDCAC did not support coverage of the scans for screening high-risk patients at an April 30 meeting.