



Dr. Inma Hernandez Joins the November NVHPF

On November 19, 2025, the Northern Virginia Health Policy Forum welcomed Dr. Inmaculada (“Inma”) Hernandez, Senior Advisor to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Administrator for Drug Prices. Hernandez holds the international equivalent of a PharmD from the University of Navarra and a PhD in health services research and policy from the University of Pittsburgh. She is currently on leave from her faculty position at the University of California San Diego’s Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences while in public service. CMS Administrator Mehmet Oz recently recognized her leadership in securing GLP-1 pricing agreements in Oval Office [remarks](#).

In conversation with Jim Scott, President and CEO of Applied Policy, Hernandez outlined the two major tracks shaping federal drug pricing policy: the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) [negotiation program](#) and the Administration’s new Most Favored Nation (MFN) framework.

IRA DRUG PRICE NEGOTIATION PROGRAM

Hernandez noted that “the IRA is statutory and completely isolated and extremely differentiated from the MFN framework.” She explained that the IRA is implemented solely by the Center for Medicare career staff and applies only to Medicare. CMS recently finalized [guidance](#) for the 2028 negotiation cycle, which—for the first time—includes procedures for renegotiating drugs previously selected for 2026 or 2027 when they gain a new indication, experience a change in monopoly status, or undergo other material changes. CMS will announce both the newly selected drugs and any drugs chosen for renegotiation by February 1, 2026.

MFN FRAMEWORK

Hernandez then described the four pillars of the MFN framework:

- **Medicaid MFN** – making drugs available to state Medicaid agencies at prices comparable to those in other countries. Hernandez noted that this is operationalized through the CMS Innovation Center’s (CMMI) GENERating cost Reductions fOr U.S. Medicaid ([GENEROUS](#)) model. Hernandez said that she would direct readers towards the CMMI GENEROUS model for questions on MFN calculations.
- **Direct-to-consumer discounts** – allowing manufacturers to offer significantly reduced cash prices.



- **Prospective MFN launch pricing** – ensuring new drugs do not launch in the U.S. at higher prices than in comparable countries.
- **Revenue repatriation** – requiring manufacturers to return a portion of additional overseas revenue linked to U.S. trade policy.

A BREAKTHROUGH ON GLP-1 PRICING

Hernandez highlighted that the MFN framework underpinned recent [agreements](#) with Novo Nordisk and Eli Lilly for GLP-1 drugs. She provided an overview of the new pricing structure for these therapies: injectable products will be offered at approximately \$350 per month, decreasing to \$250 over two years, while oral formulations will launch at about \$149 per month, pending approval. Manufacturers have also committed to offering \$245-per-month pricing for Medicare and Medicaid programs, creating a pathway for these drugs to be covered for underlying medical conditions, rather than solely for weight loss.

Coverage under the negotiated framework would be available to individuals who meet specific criteria such as a BMI ≥ 27 with prediabetes or cardiovascular disease; a BMI ≥ 30 with chronic kidney disease (stage 3a+), uncontrolled hypertension, or HFpEF; or a BMI ≥ 35 regardless of comorbidity. Scott noted that this approach would be consistent with Medicare’s statutory limits while addressing the significant burdens of chronic diseases.

TRUMPRX.GOV

Hernandez previewed TrumpRx.gov, a federal website where patients can search for the lowest prices negotiated under MFN agreements. The site will not dispense medications directly; it will direct patients to the appropriate fulfillment channels. TrumpRx.gov is expected to be fully operational by late December 2025 or by January 1, 2026.

CLOSING

Hernandez encouraged attendees to rely on official government releases for authoritative updates, noting that “the administration is working very hard to deliver lower drug prices to Americans.”

A recording of the event is available on the [NVHPF YouTube page](#).

Applied Policy®, a leading health policy regulatory and reimbursement consulting firm based in Alexandria, Virginia, proudly sponsors the Northern Virginia Health Policy Forum. The Forum brings together key thought leaders, government officials, and industry experts to discuss critical trends in American healthcare.

This extract was prepared by Applied Policy®.