Milliman examines three unique single payer scenarios

Single-payer healthcare proposals have begun to emerge in Congress, and although the focus has been on specific proposals, Milliman is taking a broader view—via questions from a Congressman. On January 8, 2019, Rep. John Yarmuth (D-Ky.), the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, sent a letter to the Congressional Budget Office posing questions about a potential single-payer system in the United States. The questions offer a useful perspective to consider the broad spectrum of single-payer proposals, including existing ones and those that may emerge. We developed three distinct scenarios to show the varied answers to the Congressman’s nine questions.

At its core, a single-payer system’s primary financing (and oftentimes the primary enrollment) comes from a single payer—typically the government. Reflecting the many unique ways that the federal and state governments fund and regulate American healthcare, we have identified three different single-payer scenarios, ranging from least disruptive to most disruptive compared to the status quo. These three options provide lenses through which to view Congressman Yarmuth’s questions.

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