



CMS Snapshot

November 24-December 2, 2021

Delivered to you by the Partner Relations Group in the Office of Communications

All releases below are from 12pm Wednesday, November 24 through 2pm Thursday, December 2, 2021.

News Releases

*November 28- [Readout of HHS Secretary Becerra's Bilateral Meeting with South African Minister of Health](#). Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra spoke today with South African Minister of Health Mathumr Joseph Phaahla. Joined by Assistant Secretary for Global Affairs, Loyce Pace, and the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Rochelle Walensky, the Secretary conveyed his deep appreciation and admiration on behalf of the United States government to South Africa's scientists for the quick identification of the Omicron variant. He praised South Africa's government for its transparency in sharing this information, which is a model for the world to take swift action in alignment with international health regulations.

*November 29- [Secretary Becerra Delivers Remarks to the World Health Assembly Special Session \(As Prepared for Delivery\)](#). Esteemed Officers of The Assembly, Director General Tedros, Distinguished Colleagues: I'm honored to join you today and rightfully begin by extending my thanks to the women and men of the WHO and to our resilient frontline workers protecting the health of our communities.

*November 30- [Five enforcement actions hold healthcare providers accountable for HIPAA Right of Access](#). Today, the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced the resolution of five investigations in its Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Right of Access Initiative, bringing the total number of these enforcement actions to twenty-five since the initiative began. OCR created this initiative to support individuals' right to timely access their health records at a reasonable cost under the HIPAA Privacy Rule.

*December 1- [Statements by HHS Leaders Commemorating World AIDS Day on December 1, 2021](#). Observed annually on December 1, this day is dedicated to people across the world uniting in the response to HIV, including people with and at risk for HIV, and to reflect on those who have died from AIDS-related illness.

*December 1- [HHS Seeks Public Comments to Advance Equity and Reduce Disparities in Organ Transplantation, Improve Life-Saving Donations, and Dialysis Facility Quality of Care](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a Request for Information (RFI) to solicit stakeholder and public feedback that will be used to inform potential changes and future rulemaking to improve the organ transplantation system and seek to enhance the quality of life of those living with organ failure.

*December 1- [HHS launches website for the 405\(d\) Aligning Health Care Industry Security Approaches Program](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) through the Office of Chief Information Officer (OCIO) and Office of Information Security (OIS) launched a website for the [HHS 405\(d\) Aligning Health Care Industry Security Approaches Program](#). The HHS 405(d) Program website was developed in partnership with the HHS 405(d) Task Group which includes more than 150 individuals from industry and the federal government who have tirelessly collaborated and provided their insights because they believe there is only one way to fight cybersecurity threats- together.

*December 1- [Secretary Becerra Delivers Remarks at White House World AIDS Day Event \(As prepared for Delivery\)](#). Good afternoon, everyone. Let me start by thanking President Biden and the White House for hosting us, and for their steadfast leadership over the past year. I also want to thank our extraordinary team at HHS: Dr. Francis Collins, Dr. Rochelle Walensky, Dr. Anthony Fauci, Admiral Rachel Levine, Surgeon General Vivek Murthy, Assistant Secretary Loyce Pace, and so many other leaders who help our Department improve the health and well-being of the American people.

*December 1- [HHS Seeks Public Comments to Advance Equity and Reduce Disparities in Organ Transplantation, Improve Life-Saving Donations, and Dialysis Facility Quality of Care](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a Request for Information (RFI) to solicit stakeholder and public feedback that will be used to inform potential changes and future rulemaking to improve the organ transplantation system and seek to enhance the quality of life of those living with organ failure. This is part of the Biden-Harris Administration's ongoing efforts to improve the health outcomes of the more than 106,000 people who are waiting to receive a life-saving or life-enhancing organ transplant.

*December 2- [Marketplace Weekly Enrollment Snapshot: Week 4](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is reporting that in week four of the 2022 Open Enrollment Period, approximately 569,000 people selected individual market plans in the 33 states that utilize the [HealthCare.gov](#) platform. During the Open Enrollment Period, to date, approximately 3,004,000 people have selected individual market plans on [HealthCare.gov](#). During Open Enrollment, CMS will release weekly enrollment snapshots that provide point-in-time estimates of weekly plan selections, Marketplace Call Center activity, and visits to [HealthCare.gov](#) and [CuidadoDeSalud.gov](#) for states that utilize the platform.

*December 2- [Biden-Harris Administration Makes 100% Federal Medicaid Matching Funds Available for State Expenditures on Certain COVID-19 Vaccine Counseling Visits for Children and Youth](#). The Biden-Harris Administration, through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, is now requiring states to cover COVID-19 vaccine counseling visits in which healthcare providers talk to families about the importance of kids' vaccination. Medicaid provides health insurance coverage to over 40% of all children in the United States and are a significant source of coverage for Black and brown children.

*December 2- [CMS Encourages People with Medicare to get COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Shot](#). As part of the Biden-Harris Administration's ongoing efforts to ensure that Americans are vaccinated against COVID-19 and to reduce stress across the nation's health care system, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is encouraging those with Medicare who are fully vaccinated to get a booster dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. Data shows that a COVID-19 vaccine booster does increase immune response, which improves protection against COVID-19.

Blogs

*November 29- [Act fast! Review your Medicare plan by December 7](#). Medicare Open Enrollment is almost over. If you're thinking about changing your Medicare plan, you have until **December 7** to take [these actions](#).

*December 2- [Attention: Less than 2 weeks left to get Marketplace coverage that starts Jan 1](#). You have less than 2 weeks to enroll in, change or update your Marketplace health insurance for 2022 coverage that starts January 1. The deadline is December 15, 2021.

Fact Sheet

*December 2- [Marketplace Weekly Enrollment Snapshot: Week 4; Week 4, November 21-November 27, 2021](#). In week four of the 2022 Open Enrollment Period, approximately 569,000 people selected individual market plans through the 33 states that use the HealthCare.gov platform. During the Open Enrollment Period, to date, approximately 3,004,000 people have selected individual market plans on HealthCare.gov. As in past years, enrollment weeks are measured Sunday through Saturday.

CMS has developed a [Virtual Toolkit](#) to help you stay informed on CMS and HHS materials available on the COVID-19. Please share these materials, bookmark the page, and check back often for the most up-to-date information. For more information, please email partnership@cms.hhs.gov