



CMS Snapshot

September 24-30, 2021

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, September 24 through 2pm Thursday, September 30, 2021.

News Releases

*September 24- [Statement by HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra on COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Doses](#). Today, Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra issued the following statement on the significance of booster doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine reaching millions of eligible people across the country, following decisions made by Food and Drug Administration Acting Commissioner Dr. Janet Woodcock and then Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky, respectively.

*September 24- [CMS Will Pay for COVID-19 Booster Shots, Eligible Consumers Can Receive at No Cost](#). Following the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) recent action that authorized a booster dose of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for certain high-risk populations and a recommendation from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will continue to provide coverage for this critical protection from the virus, including booster doses, without cost sharing.

*September 27- [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Announces Lisa J. Pino as Director for Office for Civil Rights \(Spanish version\)](#). The U.S. Department of Health & Human Services today announced the appointment of Lisa J. Pino as Director of the Office for Civil Rights (OCR). OCR enforces federal civil rights, conscience and religious freedom laws; the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Privacy, Security, and Breach Notification Rules; and the Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Act and Patient Safety Rule - which together protect individuals' fundamental civil rights and medical privacy.

*September 28- [Biden-Harris Administration Provides Nearly \\$1 Billion in American Rescue Plan Funds to Modernize Health Centers and Support Underserved Communities](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) awarded nearly \$1 billion in American Rescue Plan funding to nearly 1,300 Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Health Center Program-funded health centers in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. territories to support major health care construction and renovation projects. These awards will

strengthen our primary health care infrastructure and advance health equity and health outcomes in medically underserved communities, including through projects that support COVID-19 testing, treatment, and vaccination. The awards were made through the Health Resources and Services Administration.

*September 28- [SAMHSA Awards Record-Setting \\$825 Million in Grants to Strengthen Community Mental Health Centers, and Support Americans Living with Serious Emotional Disturbances, Mental Illnesses](#). Following up on its commitment to [invest \\$825 million](#) in Community Mental Health Centers (CMHCs), the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is announcing the distribution of funds to 231 CMHCs across the country.

*September 29- [CMS Releases 2022 Premiums and Cost-Sharing Information for Medicare Advantage and Prescription Drug Plans \(Spanish Version\)](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released the 2022 premiums, deductibles and other key information for Medicare Advantage and Part D prescription drug plans in advance of the annual Medicare Open Enrollment to help Medicare enrollees decide on coverage that fits their needs. The average premium for Medicare Advantage plans will be lower in 2022 at \$19 per month, compared to \$21.22 in 2021, while projected enrollment continues to increase. As previously announced, the average 2022 premium for Part D coverage will be \$33 per month, compared to \$31.47 in 2021.

*September 30- [OCR Issues Guidance on HIPAA, COVID-19 Vaccinations, and the Workplace](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Office for Civil Rights (OCR), issued guidance to help the public understand when the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) Privacy Rule applies to disclosures and requests for information about whether a person has received a COVID-19 vaccine.

Fact Sheet

*September 29- [Medicare Advantage Value-Based Insurance Design Model Calendar Year 2022 Model Participation](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is announcing the Calendar Year (CY) 2022 participants in the Medicare Advantage (MA) Value-Based Insurance Design (VBID) Model. There is a more than two-fold increase in the number of Model enrollees covered by participating MA plans in 2022 compared to 2021.

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