



CMS Snapshot

August 5-13, 2021

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, August 5 through 12pm Friday, August 13, 2021.

News Releases

*August 5- [Readout of HHS Secretary Becerra's Bilateral Meeting with Guatemalan Minister of Health](#). Today, Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra met with Guatemalan Minister of Health, Dr. Amelia Flores to discuss health priorities and collaboration including efforts to combat the COVID-19 pandemic and the growing concern for the health of migrants.

*August 9- [Statement by HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra on Health Center Week](#). Health Center Week is being Celebrated August 8-14, 2021. "From Seattle to Atlanta, I've seen first-hand the critical role health centers play in serving communities, particularly to help fight the pandemic. After quickly transitioning from providing in-person primary care to offering telehealth services, they continue to test, vaccinate, and act as lifelines to communities disproportionately hit by COVID-19. Under the American Rescue Plan, the Biden-Harris Administration has invested over \$7.3 billion in health centers to support COVID-19 response efforts across underserved communities. No matter a person's circumstance, health care must be in reach. I thank the nation's nearly 1,400 health centers and their staff for keeping our families, particularly vulnerable communities, healthy. The Biden-Harris Administration will continue to support their critical work."

*August 9- [Rhode Island, Massachusetts Healthcare Provider Resolves Allegations of Discriminatory Practices Regarding Patients Needing Opioid Use Disorder Treatment](#). The Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and United States Attorney's Offices in the Districts of Rhode Island and Massachusetts announced today that they have reached agreement with twelve skilled nursing facilities in Rhode Island and Massachusetts operated by Genesis HealthCare Inc, to resolve allegations that the facilities denied admission to prospective residents because they were taking an FDA-approved medical treatment to treat Opioid Use Disorder (OUD), in violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, and the Rehabilitation Act.

*August 9- [HHS Statement on Recent Settlement](#). HHS and Dr. Rick Bright, former Director of BARDA, have reached a settlement of his whistleblower claim which he filed in May of 2020. The Agency would like to thank Dr. Bright for his dedicated public service and for the contributions he made to addressing the COVID-19 pandemic while he served as BARDA Director. We wish him well in his new endeavors.

*August 10- [More than 2.5 Million Americans Gain Health Coverage During Special Enrollment Period](#). New data released today by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) shows more than 2.5 million people enrolled in health coverage on HealthCare.gov and state Marketplaces during the Biden-Harris Administration's 2021 Special Enrollment Period (SEP), which will close in five days on August 15th. Additional data released by CMS today shows that a record high of nearly 81.7 million people are now receiving coverage through Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) as of March 2021. The continued rise in enrollment demonstrates the success of the Biden-Harris Administration's work to build upon the Affordable Care Act and deliver high-quality, affordable health care for millions of Americans. The "Summer Sprint to Coverage" [campaign](#) continues to raise awareness that zero-premium or low-premium health insurance options are available on HealthCare.gov.

*August 13- [People With Medicare Who Are Immunocompromised Would be Able to Receive an Additional COVID-19 Dose At No Cost](#). In response to the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) recent action that authorizes an additional dose of COVID-19 vaccine for immunocompromised individuals, CMS is assuring people with Medicare who qualify for an additional dose that they can receive it with no cost sharing. This is part of President Biden's commitment that patients have access to the necessary vaccinations to protect themselves from COVID-19.

Fact Sheet

*August 10- [2021 Marketplace Special Enrollment Period Report](#). Key Highlights of the 2021 Special Enrollment Period (SEP) through July 31: Nationwide Marketplace signups: Over 2.5 million Americans have signed up for new health insurance coverage through HealthCare.gov and State-based Marketplaces during the 2021 Marketplace SEP as of July 31, 2021.

Blogs

*August 9- [Prevention is key—protect yourself with vaccines](#). More than 79% of people 65 and over are fully vaccinated for COVID-19—but are you defending yourself from other life-threatening illnesses, like pneumonia and the flu? Getting vaccinated is a simple, safe, and effective way to protect yourself.

*August 12- [Attention: Enroll or change your health plan by August 15](#). Need coverage for the rest of 2021? You have through August 15, 2021 to enroll in or change Marketplace health insurance plans due to [a Special Enrollment Period for the coronavirus disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) emergency](#). More people than ever before qualify for help paying for health coverage, even those who weren't eligible in the past. [Learn more about new, lower costs](#).

*August 12- [Innovation At The Centers For Medicare And Medicaid Services: A Vision For The Next 10 Years](#). *Note: This blog was originally posted on HealthAffairs.org on August 12, 2021.* Excerpt: As incoming leaders at CMS under a new administration, we have taken stock of lessons learned from the first ten years of the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation's operation and begun to chart a path for the next ten years of value-based care.

*August 12- [Secretary Becerra to Require COVID-19 Vaccinations for HHS Health Care Workforce](#). To increase vaccination coverage and protect more people from COVID-19, including the more transmissible Delta variant, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) will require more than 25,000 members of its health care workforce to be vaccinated against COVID-19.

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