



CMS Snapshot

July 21-28, 2022

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, July 21 through 2pm Thursday, July 28, 2022

News Releases

*July 21- [CMS Releases First-Ever Home- and Community-Based Services Quality Measure Set](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is releasing the first-ever home- and community-Based Services (HCBS) quality measure set to promote consistent quality measurement within and across state Medicaid HCBS programs. The measure set is intended to provide insight into the quality of HCBS programs and enable states to measure and improve health outcomes for people relying on long-term services and support (LTSS) in Medicaid. The release of this voluntary measure set is also a critical step to promoting health equity among the millions of older adults and people with disabilities who need LTSS because of disabling conditions and chronic illnesses.

*July 22- [HHS Strengthens Country's Preparedness for Health Emergencies, Announces Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response \(ASPR\)](#). *Secretary Becerra elevates HHS's existing preparedness and response office to an operating division, providing additional tools to respond to current and future health emergencies.* The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) today announced that Secretary Xavier Becerra has elevated the existing Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) from a staff division to an operating division, taking on the new name of the Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR).

*July 23- [Statement from HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra on WHO Decision to Declare Monkeypox a Global Health Emergency](#). Today, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra issued the following statement in response to the World Health Organization's decision to declare monkeypox a global health emergency.

*July 25- [HHS Announces Proposed Rule to Strengthen Nondiscrimination in Health Care](#). *The proposed rule affirms protections consistent with President Biden's executive orders on nondiscrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, and on protecting access to reproductive health care.* Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

announced a proposed rule implementing Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act (ACA)(Section 1557) that prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, and disability in certain health programs and activities. This proposed rule restores and strengthens civil rights protections for patients and consumers in certain federally funded health programs and HHS programs after the 2020 version of the rule limited its scope and power to cover fewer programs and services.

*July 26- [HHS Approves 12-Month Extension of Postpartum Coverage in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Kansas](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), approved the extension of Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) coverage for 12 months after pregnancy in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Kansas. As a result, up to an additional 19,000 people annually – including 4,000 in Connecticut; 8,000 in Massachusetts, and 7,000 in Kansas – will now have access to Medicaid or CHIP coverage for a full year after pregnancy.

*July 26- [CMS Releases Maternity Care Action Plan to Implement Biden-Harris Maternal Health Blueprint; Launches Industry Call to Action](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) unveiled its [Maternity Care Action Plan](#) to support the implementation of the [Biden-Harris Administration’s Blueprint for Addressing the Maternal Health Crisis](#). The action plan takes a holistic and coordinated approach across CMS to improve health outcomes and reduce inequities for people during pregnancy, childbirth, and the postpartum period. CMS’ implementation of the action plan will support the Biden-Harris Administration’s broad vision and call to action to improve maternal health.

*July 26- [HHS Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health Commits Millions Toward Maternal Health](#). *Aims to reduce deaths and complications that impact minority populations and those living in rural areas.* Today the HHS Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health (OASH) reaffirmed its commitment to ensuring the availability of quality health care before, during, and after pregnancy by investing \$8.5 million in initiatives designed to reduce pregnancy-related deaths and complications that disproportionately impact minority populations and those living in rural areas.

*July 26- [Statement from HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra on 32nd Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act](#). Today, we celebrate a watershed moment in our nation’s history: the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). For 32 years, the ADA has provided vital protections for the millions of Americans who live with a disability.

*July 27- [CMS Enhances Nursing Home Rating System with Staffing and Turnover Data](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services today launched its enhanced Nursing Home Five-Star Quality Rating System which integrates data nursing homes report on their weekend staffing rates for nurses and information on annual turnover among nurses and administrators. The updated Star Ratings increase transparency in support of the Biden-Harris Administration’s

commitment to improving the quality of nursing homes so nursing home residents receive the reliable, quality care they deserve.

*July 27- [Statement by HHS Secretary Becerra on FDA Approval of Additional Bavarian Nordic Monkeypox Vaccine](#). Today, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced it has approved a supplement to the biologics license for the JYNNEOS Vaccine, which is manufactured by Bavarian Nordic and approved to prevent smallpox and monkeypox.

Fact Sheets

*July 21- [FACT SHEET: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Response to the Monkeypox Outbreak](#). Since the first reported case of monkeypox in the United States on May 18, HHS has communicated public health information about the virus to patients and health care providers, provided access and substantially increased supply of vaccines and treatments, and significantly expand the availability of tests. HHS has distributed nearly 200,000 JYNNEOS vaccines in recent weeks, accelerated the inspection of approximately 800,000 vaccines for delivery this summer while procuring millions more for delivery in mid-2023, and ensured that tens of thousands of tests per week would be available to physicians and patients.

*July 27- [Fiscal Year \(FY\) 2023 Hospice Payment Rate Update Final Rule \(CMS-1773-F\)](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a final rule (CMS-1773-F) that updates Medicare hospice payments and the aggregate cap amount for FY 2023 in accordance with existing statutory and regulatory requirements. This final rule establishes a permanent mitigation policy to smooth the impact of year-to-year changes in hospice payments related to changes in the hospice wage index.

*July 27- [Fiscal Year 2023 Medicare Inpatient Psychiatric Facility Prospective Payment System Final Rule \(CMS-1769-F\)](#). On July 27, 2022, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a final rule to update Medicare payment policies and rates for the Inpatient Psychiatric Facility Prospective Payment System (IPF PPS) for fiscal year (FY) 2023. CMS is publishing this final rule consistent with the legal requirements to update Medicare payment policies for IPFs on an annual basis.

*July 27- [Updates to the Care Compare Website July 2022](#). Staffing in nursing homes has a substantial impact on the quality of care and outcomes residents experience. For more than 10 years, CMS has been posting information on facility staffing measures on the Medicare.gov website Care Compare. Over the last several years, CMS has made improvements to the information reported. In January, we began posting new weekend staffing and staff turnover measures on Care Compare ([CMS memorandum QSO 22-08-NH](#)). Now, we are adding four new measures to the Nursing Home Five Star Quality Rating System effective with the July 27 release. We also note that improving nursing home staffing and increasing transparency are key components of the [White House Fact Sheet](#) on improving nursing home quality and safety.

*July 27- [Fiscal Year 2023 Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility Prospective Payment System Final Rule \(CMS-1767-F\)](#). On July 27, 2022, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a final rule to update Medicare payment policies and rates under the Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility (IRF) Prospective Payment System (PPS) and the IRF Quality Reporting Program (QRP) for fiscal year (FY) 2023. CMS is publishing this final rule in accordance with the legal requirements to update Medicare payment policies for IRFs on an annual basis.

Blogs

*July 26- [Celebrating the 32nd Anniversary of the ADA](#) By: [Melanie Fontes Rainer](#), Acting Director, HHS Office for Civil Rights. On July 26, 1990, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was signed into law, affirming the inherent dignity of every person, regardless of disability. The ADA works in tandem with our other federal civil rights laws, including Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504) and Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) (Section 1557), enforced by the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), that protect people from [discrimination on the basis on disability](#).

*July 28- [I Can't Wait to End Viral Hepatitis](#). By: [Chinedu Okeke, MD, MPH-TM, MPA](#), Acting Chief Medical Officer, Senior Policy Advisor – Viral Hepatitis Lead (OIDP). Viral hepatitis is a major public health threat both here in the United States and across the globe. So, this [World Hepatitis Day](#) 🌐, I join the global effort to raise awareness of the impact of viral hepatitis. Simply put, we can't wait to eliminate viral hepatitis. With more than 350 million people are living with viral hepatitis globally and more than one million deaths worldwide each year, we must be focused on eliminating this terrible disease.

*July 28- [Marketplace coverage & essential health benefits](#). There are 10 categories of services — called [essential health benefits](#) — that all private health insurance plans offered in the Health Insurance Marketplace® must cover.

For more information, please email partnership@cms.hhs.gov