



CMS Snapshot

September 8-15, 2022

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, September 8 through 2pm Thursday, September 15, 2022

News Releases

*September 9- [HHS Secretary: 988 Transition Moves Us Closer to Better Serving the Crisis Care Needs of People Across America](#). *Bipartisan Safer Communities Act to fund \$150 million for 988 Lifeline, including \$35 million announced today to better link 988 Lifeline services to Tribal communities.* Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is releasing new data that shows that over the first month of the transition to the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline (988 Lifeline) there has been a 45% increase in overall volume and a substantial improvement in answer rates and wait times compared to August 2021. HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra applauded the progress that has been made thanks to historic funding from the Biden-Harris Administration and Congress and collaboration among the federal, state/territory, and local governments across the country. The Biden-Harris Administration has increased federal funding in the 988 Lifeline 18-fold in FY22, compared with FY21.

*September 12- [Updated COVID-19 Vaccines Providing Protection Against Omicron Variant Available at No Cost](#). Today, the Department of Health & Human Services (HHS), through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced that people with Medicare, Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) coverage, private insurance coverage, or no health coverage can get COVID-19 vaccines, including the updated Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccines, at no cost, for as long as the federal government continues purchasing and distributing these COVID-19 vaccines.

*September 12- [HHS Approves Nation's First Medicaid Mobile Crisis Intervention Services Program, To Be Launched in Oregon](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), announced approval of the Oregon Health Authority's proposal to cover community-based mobile crisis intervention services in Medicaid. Made possible by President Biden's American Rescue Plan, the new first-in-the-nation Medicaid State plan amendment will allow Oregon to provide community-based stabilization services to individuals experiencing mental health and/or substance use crises

throughout the state by connecting them to a behavioral health specialist 24 hours per day, every day of the year.

*September 12- [Statement by HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra on the Appointment of the Inaugural Director of Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health](#). Today, President Biden [announced](#) his intention to appoint Dr. Renee Wegrzyn to be director of the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra issued the following statement.

*September 14- [HHS Announces Melanie Fontes Rainer as Director of the Office for Civil Rights](#). On Wednesday, September 14, 2022, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra formally swore in Melanie Fontes Rainer as Director of the Office for Civil Rights (OCR). Director Fontes Rainer previously served as the Acting Director and was officially appointed to the role last month.

*September 14- [Statement by HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra on House Republicans Introducing Legislation to Rip Away Women’s Access to Contraception and Abortion Medication](#). Today, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra released the following statement on House Republicans introducing legislation to deny women essential medications.

*September 15- [Statement from HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra on National Hispanic Heritage Month](#). Today, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra issued the following statement to mark the beginning of National Hispanic Heritage Month.

Fact Sheet

*September 14- [Fact Sheet: HHS Takes Action on Executive Order Launching a National Biotechnology and Biomanufacturing Initiative](#). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) today announced actions the department will take following the [Executive Order](#) signed September 12, 2022 by President Biden launching a National Biotechnology and Biomanufacturing Initiative (NBBI).

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