



CMS Snapshot

October 27-November 3, 2022

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, October 27 through 2pm Thursday, November 3, 2022

News Releases

*October 27- [Readout: HHS Hosts Multicultural Media Briefing On Updated COVID-19 Vaccines.](#) Following President Joe Biden's call on Tuesday, encouraging Americans to get vaccinated as we head into the holiday season, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) hosted a special media briefing for multicultural journalists and publishers on the updated COVID-19 vaccines, and the Administration's commitment to equity and diversity in the pandemic response.

*October 28- [Readout: HHS Hosts Historic Ethnic Physicians Briefing on Updated COVID-19 Vaccines.](#) Following President Joe Biden's call-to-action on Tuesday, encouraging Americans to get vaccinated as we head into the holiday season, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) hosted a historic gathering of ethnic physicians and medical associations to share information about the updated COVID-19 vaccines and the Biden-Harris Administration's commitment to health equity and diversity in its pandemic response.

*October 28- [Biden-Harris Administration Strengthens Medicare with Finalized Policies to Simplify Enrollment and Expand Access to Coverage.](#) *Final rule creates Special Enrollment Periods and reduces gaps in Medicare coverage, and improves administration of the Medicare Savings Programs.* Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a final rule that updates Medicare enrollment and eligibility rules to expand coverage for people with Medicare and advance health equity. The final rule, which implements changes made by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (CAA), makes it easier for people to enroll in Medicare and eliminates delays in coverage. Among these changes, individuals will now have Medicare coverage the month immediately after their enrollment, thereby reducing any delays in coverage.

*October 31- [Biden-Harris Administration Launches 10th Year of Marketplace Open Enrollment with Four Out of Five Customers Eligible for Coverage at \\$10 or Less, Thanks to Subsidies.](#) *Consumers can sign up for health insurance coverage on HealthCare.gov from November 1, 2022*

to January 15, 2023. Beginning Tuesday, November 1, 2022, consumers are able to sign up for high-quality, affordable health insurance on HealthCare.gov. Marketplace Open Enrollment runs from November 1, 2022, to January 15, 2023. Anyone who enrolls by midnight December 15, 2022 can get full-year coverage that starts January 1, 2023.

*November 1- [HHS Continues Biden-Harris Administration Progress in Promoting Health Equity in Rural Care Access Through Outpatient Hospital and Surgical Center Payment System Final Rule](#). *Critical Access Hospitals and Small Rural Hospitals Can Convert to Rural Emergency Hospitals, Allowing Them to Remain Open to Serve Their Communities*. Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through its Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), is improving access to health care — including behavioral health services — in rural communities. Reflecting the Biden-Harris Administration’s commitments to advance health equity and to improve the nation’s behavioral health services, CMS is releasing the calendar year (CY) 2023 Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS) and Ambulatory Surgical Center (ASC) Payment System final rule with comment period.

*November 1- [HHS Approves Arkansas’ Medicaid Waiver to Provide Medically Necessary Housing and Nutrition Support Services](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), approved an amendment to Arkansas’ Medicaid section 1115 demonstration that will test innovative interventions to address housing and food insecurity, as well as other critical health-related social needs. Like recently approved section 1115 demonstration initiatives in [Arizona](#), [Massachusetts](#), and [Oregon](#), the amendment to the Arkansas Health and Opportunity for Me (ARHOME) demonstration will drive better health and wellbeing outcomes for beneficiaries in crisis by providing medically necessary support services, particularly for young people, pregnant and postpartum women, and those dealing with mental illness and substance use diagnoses.

*November 1- [HHS Finalizes Physician Payment Rule Strengthening Access to Behavioral Health Services and Whole-Person Care](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through its Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), is expanding access to behavioral health care, cancer screening coverage, and dental care. The Calendar Year 2023 Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) final rule announced today also promotes innovation and coordinated care in the Medicare program through Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs). This rule directly supports [President Biden’s Cancer Moonshot Goal](#) to cut the death rate from cancer by at least 50% and also supports the Administration’s commitment of strengthening behavioral health, which the President outlined in his first State of the Union Address and the comprehensive strategy to tackle the nation’s mental health crisis, which HHS leaders have furthered through the [National Tour to Strengthen Mental Health](#).

*November 1- [HHS Approves Arkansas’ Medicaid Waiver to Provide Medically Necessary Housing and Nutrition Support Services](#). *Arkansas will use its Medicaid demonstration to test health-related social needs interventions as key components of overall health for certain groups*

of Medicaid beneficiaries. Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), approved an amendment to Arkansas' Medicaid section 1115 demonstration that will test innovative interventions to address housing and food insecurity, as well as other critical health-related social needs. Like recently approved section 1115 demonstration initiatives in [Arizona](#), [Massachusetts](#), and [Oregon](#), the amendment to the Arkansas Health and Opportunity for Me (ARHOME) demonstration will drive better health and wellbeing outcomes for beneficiaries in crisis by providing medically necessary support services, particularly for young people, pregnant and postpartum women, and those dealing with mental illness and substance use diagnoses.

*November 1- [Readout of HHS Secretary Becerra's Meeting with New York State Advocates to Discuss Efforts to Close Equity Gaps in Health Care](#). On Tuesday, November 1, HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra met virtually with advocates from New York State regarding their statewide efforts to close equity gaps, lower costs and deliver quality, equitable care in New York, particularly through Medicaid. The group focused on ways to address social determinants of health (SDOH) and the best path forward for federal and state collaboration. Section 1115 Medicaid demonstration initiatives, mental and behavioral health, investments in health centers, homelessness and housing, and environmental justice and health were all addressed.

*November 2- [Biden-Harris Administration Announces \\$4.5 Billion to Lower Heating Costs for American Families This Winter](#). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), announced \$4.5 billion in assistance today to help lower heating costs for American families this winter. Today's announcement is part of the Biden-Harris Administration's work to lower costs and give working and middle-class American families more breathing room.

Fact Sheets

*October 31- [Calendar Year 2023 End-Stage Renal Disease \(ESRD\) Prospective Payment System \(PPS\) Final Rule \(CMS-1768-F\)](#). On October 31, 2022, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a final rule updating payment rates and policies under the end-stage renal disease (ESRD) Prospective Payment System (PPS) for renal dialysis services furnished to Medicare beneficiaries on or after January 1, 2023. This rule also updates the Acute Kidney Injury (AKI) dialysis payment rate for renal dialysis services furnished by ESRD facilities for calendar year (CY) 2023. In addition, the rule updates requirements for the ESRD Quality Incentive Program (QIP) and summarizes comments received in response to requests for information on topics that are relevant to the ESRD QIP. CMS is finalizing refinements to the ESRD Treatment Choices Model in this rule.

*October 31- [CY 2023 Home Health Prospective Payment System Rate Update and Home Infusion Therapy Services Requirements — Final Rule \(CMS-1766-F\)](#). On October 31, 2022, the

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued the calendar year (CY) 2023 Home Health Prospective Payment System (HH PPS) Rate Update final rule, which updates Medicare payment policies and rates for home health agencies (HHAs). This rule includes routine updates to the Medicare Home Health PPS and the home infusion therapy services' payment rates for CY 2023, in accordance with existing statutory and regulatory requirements. As described further below, CMS estimates that Medicare payments to HHAs in CY 2023 will increase in the aggregate by 0.7%, or \$125 million compared to CY 2022.

*November 1- [Calendar Year \(CY\) 2023 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Final Rule](#). On November 01, 2022, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a final rule that includes updates and policy changes for Medicare payments under the Physician Fee Schedule (PFS), and other Medicare Part B issues, effective on or after January 1, 2023.

*November 1- [CY 2023 Medicare Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System and Ambulatory Surgical Center Payment System Final Rule with Comment Period \(CMS 1772-FC\)](#). On November 1, 2022, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) finalized Medicare payment rates for hospital outpatient and ambulatory surgical center (ASC) services. The Calendar Year (CY) 2023 Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS) and ASC Payment System Final Rule is published annually.

*November 1- [Calendar Year \(CY\) 2023 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Final Rule - Medicare Shared Savings Program](#). On November 1, 2022, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a final rule that includes updates and policy changes for Medicare payments under the Physician Fee Schedule (PFS), and other Medicare Part B issues, effective on or after January 1, 2023.

Blogs

*November 1- [Strengthening Behavioral Health Care for People with Medicare](#). *By: Meena Seshamani, MD, PhD, and Douglas Jacobs, MD, MPH* Note: *This blog is an updated version from the [July 7, 2022 blog](#). This updated blog reflects the new behavioral health policies in CMS' finalized CY 2023 Physician Fee Schedule and Outpatient Prospective Payment System rules.* COVID-19 has exacerbated the nation's struggle with mental health and substance use disorders (collectively called "behavioral health conditions"), fueling a full-blown crisis. For some Americans during the pandemic, this has meant feeling depressed and hopeless, making it challenging for them to perform everyday tasks. For older Americans and people with disabilities who may have already felt socially isolated, the pandemic has made it even harder to connect with family and friends. And for many people with substance use disorders, it has led to higher substance use, dangerous overdoses and even death, including suicides.

*November 1- [Apply & enroll in 2023 coverage today](#). Open Enrollment starts today! You have until **January 15, 2023** to apply for new health coverage or change your health plan for 2023. If

you enroll by December 15, 2022, your coverage will start January 1, 2023. Avoid a gap in coverage by acting quickly to find a plan that meets your household's needs and budget.

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