



CMS Snapshot

February 24-March 3, 2022

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, February 24 through 2pm Thursday, March 3, 2022.

News Releases

*February 24- [CMS Redesigns Accountable Care Organization Model to Provide Better Care for People with Traditional Medicare](#). Building on the Biden-Harris Administration's priorities for a better health care system, today the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced a redesigned Accountable Care Organization (ACO) model that better reflects the agency's vision of creating a health system that achieves equitable outcomes through high quality, affordable, person-centered care.

*February 24- [HHS Secretary Becerra Highlights Progress Made in Strengthening U.S. Medical Supply Chain and Industrial Base](#). Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra today issued a [new report](#) highlighting the progress that has been made over the past year to strengthen the U.S. public health and medical supply chain and industrial base.

*February 24- [Readout of Secretary Becerra's Virtual Roundtable on Increasing Routine Vaccinations](#). Earlier, Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra hosted a virtual roundtable focused on increasing routine pediatric and adult vaccinations. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, less children and adults have been getting routine vaccinations, which leaves them more at risk for illness. This impact has been felt hardest by children in communities of color and in rural areas.

*February 28- [New Report Demonstrates Impact of Climate Change on Mental and Physical Health](#). Today, Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra and the Assistant Secretary for Health, Admiral Rachel Levine, issued the following statements in response to a new Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report showing climate change's current and future impacts on physical and mental health.

*February 28- [Readout of HHS Secretary Becerra's Roundtable with SEIU Healthcare to Celebrate Black History Month](#). On Monday, February 28, 2022, Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra participated in a roundtable discussion with members of SEIU Healthcare Illinois Indiana Missouri and Kansas. The union proudly touted its

history of being organized and led by Black and Brown women. The focus of the conversation was to celebrate Black History Month, hear about the impact that home care and child care workers have in the care economy, and underscore both HHS's and the Biden-Harris Administration's commitment to supporting the care economy workforce.

*March 1- [Statement by HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra on President Biden's State of the Union Address](#). Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra released the following statement after President Biden's State of the Union address.

*March 2- [Statement from CMS Administrator Chiquita Brooks-LaSure on President Biden's State of the Union](#): "During President Biden's first year in office, CMS has worked to expand health care coverage to a record 14.5 million people through the Health Insurance Marketplaces, encouraged states to extend Medicaid coverage for a full 12 months after childbirth, and expanded access to home and community-based services for seniors and people with disabilities. Last night, the President laid out several ways that we continue this momentum and build a better America."

*March 2- [Secretary Becerra Kicks Off National Tour to Strengthen Mental Health](#). Following President Joe Biden's State of the Union Address on Tuesday, Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra kicked off the National Tour to Strengthen Mental Health in an effort to hear directly from Americans across the country about the behavioral health challenges they're facing and engage with local elected officials and leaders to strengthen the mental health and crisis care system in our communities.

*March 2- [HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra Congratulates Robert Valdez as New AHRQ Director](#). Today, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra released a statement announcing the appointment of Robert "Bob" Valdez, Ph.D., MHA, as Director of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ).

*March 2- [Statement by HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra Reaffirming HHS Support and Protection for LGBTQI+ Children and Youth](#). Today, on the heels of a discriminatory gubernatorial order in Texas, Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra released the following statement reaffirming HHS's commitment to supporting and protecting transgender youth and their parents, caretakers and families. Secretary Becerra also announced several immediate actions HHS is taking to support LGBTQI+ youth and further remind Texas and others of the federal protections that exist to ensure transgender youth receive the care they need:

Fact Sheets

*February 24- [Accountable Care Organization \(ACO\) Realizing Equity, Access, and Community Health \(REACH\) Model](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has redesigned the Global and Professional Direct Contracting Model (GPDC) Model to advance Administration

priorities, including our commitment to advancing health equity, and in response to stakeholder feedback and participant experience. The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (Innovation Center) is releasing a Request for Applications (RFA) to solicit a cohort of participants for the Accountable Care Organization (ACO) Realizing Equity, Access, and Community Health (REACH) Model.

Blogs

*February 24- [Health care & 2021 taxes: What you need to know](#). The 2021 tax filing season ends April 18, 2022. Here's how you can get ready if you had Marketplace coverage at any point in 2021.

*February 28- [Improving the Cybersecurity Posture of Healthcare in 2022](#). As the Director of the Office for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (OCR), prioritizing cyber security and patient privacy is of the utmost concern. From my years in government service, I understand cyberattacks all too well from my role at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security where I drove the agency's response to the 2015 U.S. cyber breach mitigation of 4 million federal personnel and 22 million surrogate profiles, which at the time was the largest hack in federal history.

CMS has developed a [Virtual Toolkit](#) to help you stay informed on all CMS and HHS materials available on the COVID-19 pandemic. 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