



## CMS Snapshot

**December 30, 2021- January 6, 2022**

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, December 30, 2021 through 2pm January 6, 2022.

### News Releases

\*January 3, 2022- [HHS Kicks Off New Year with New Protections from Surprise Medical Bills](#).

Beginning January 1, 2022, new federal protections championed by the Biden-Harris Administration will shield millions of consumers from surprise medical bills—unexpected bills from an out-of-network provider, out-of-network facility or out-of-network air ambulance provider. The protections, implemented under the No Surprises Act, ban surprise billing in private insurance for most emergency care and many instances of non-emergency care. They also require that uninsured and self-pay patients receive key information, including overviews of anticipated costs and details about their rights.

\*January 5- [HHS Secretary Becerra: 12 to 15 Year-Olds Can Now Get a Pfizer Booster](#). Following actions by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Food and Drug Administration to expand Pfizer COVID-19 booster shots to 12 to 15 year-olds, HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra issued this statement:

### Fact Sheet

\*January 3, 2022- [No Surprises: Understand your rights against surprise medical bills](#). The No Surprises Act protects people covered under group and individual health plans from receiving surprise medical bills when they receive most emergency services, non-emergency services from out-of-network providers at in-network facilities, and services from out-of-network air ambulance service providers. It also establishes an independent dispute resolution process for payment disputes between plans and providers, and provides new dispute resolution opportunities for uninsured and self-pay individuals when they receive a medical bill that is substantially greater than the good faith estimate they get from the provider.

*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](mailto:partnership@cms.hhs.gov)*