



CMS Snapshot

January 20- January 27, 2022

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, January 20 through 2pm January 27, 2022.

News Releases

*January 20- [Readout of HHS Secretary Becerra's Bilateral Meeting with the European Union Commissioner for Health and Food Safety](#). Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra spoke late yesterday with Commissioner Stella Kyriakides, European Union Commissioner for Health and Food Safety. Joined by Assistant Secretary for Global Affairs, Loyce Pace, and the Office of Global Affairs' Director of the Europe Eurasia region, Peter Schmeissner, the Secretary conveyed his appreciation on behalf of the United States government to the European Union for their leadership in the COVID-19 response. The Secretary reaffirmed the U.S. whole-of-government support to responding aggressively to the pandemic this year.

January 20- [Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra Marks One-Year Anniversary of Biden-Harris Administration](#). During a press call this morning, HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra marked the one-year anniversary of the Biden-Harris Administration and – along with Health Resources Services Administration Administrator Carole Johnson – [announced new funding to support health care workers](#) who continue to work day in and day out on a shared priority: protecting the health of Americans, particularly as the pandemic persists. The following is an excerpt of the Secretary's opening remarks, and a [downloadable snapshot of key achievements from the past year that have helped advance the HHS mission of building a healthier nation - PDF](#).

*January 21- [ONC Seeks Public Comment on Electronic Prior Authorization Standards, Implementation Specifications and Certification Criteria](#). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) today released a Request for Information (RFI) seeking input from the public on electronic prior authorization standards, implementation specifications and certification criteria that could be adopted within the ONC Health IT Certification Program (Certification Program). Responses to this RFI may be used to inform potential future rulemaking to better enable providers to interact with health care plans and other payers for the automated, electronic

completion of prior authorization tasks. Ultimately, such electronic processes will serve to ease the burden of prior authorization tasks on patients, providers, and payers.

*January 21- [HHS Awards \\$6.6 Million to Address Increased Need for Title X Family Planning Services](#). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is awarding \$6.6 million through the Title X family planning program to address increased need for family planning services where restrictive laws and policies have impacted reproductive health access. This competitive grant opportunity addressing dire family planning needs was [announced](#) as part of a series of recent actions HHS took to protect patients and health care providers in response to the Texas Law SB 8. Today's awards will go to entities in seven states, including Texas, and were made possible by funds from the American Rescue Plan.

*January 21- [HHS Secretary Becerra Takes Action to Protect Reproductive Health Care](#). Today, on the eve of the 49th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*, Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra announced the first-ever [HHS Intra-agency Task Force on Reproductive Healthcare Access](#).

*January 25- [HHS Distributing \\$2 Billion More in Provider Relief Fund Payments to Health Care Providers Impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic](#). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), is making more than \$2 billion in Provider Relief Fund (PRF) Phase 4 General Distribution payments to more than 7,600 providers across the country this week. These payments come on the heels of the nearly \$9 billion in funding that was already released by HHS in December 2021. With today's announcement, a total of nearly \$11 billion in PRF Phase 4 payments has now been distributed to more than 74,000 providers in all 50 states, Washington D.C., and five territories. This is in addition to HRSA's distribution of American Rescue Plan (ARP) Rural payments totaling nearly \$7.5 billion in funding to more than 43,000 providers in December 2021.

*January 25- [U.S. Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Treasury issue 2022 Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act Report to Congress](#). The Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services and the Treasury today issued their [2022 Report to Congress on the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 - PDF](#). The report includes information that suggests health plans and health insurance issuers are failing to deliver parity for mental health and substance-use disorder benefits to those they cover. The report also highlights the departments' recent emphasis on greater MHPAEA enforcement in addition to guidance to correct those failures, and makes recommendations to strengthen MHPAEA's consumer protections and enhance the departments' enforce abilities.

*January 25- [President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Directs \\$100 Million to Lower Heating and Cooling Bills](#). As President Biden and his Administration work to lower costs for working families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra announced the release of \$100 million from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to help families pay their outstanding heating and cooling bills. This funding comes on top of investment in the

Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) through the American Rescue Plan and the Continuing Resolution most recently passed by Congress.

*January 26- [Medicare Shared Savings Program Continues to Grow and Deliver High-Quality, Person-Centered Care Through Accountable Care Organizations](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released data showing that Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) are serving a growing patient population, according to CMS' annual summary of the Medicare Shared Savings Program, which is Medicare's national ACO program. CMS projects that over 11 million people with Medicare will be served by Shared Savings Program ACOs in 2022.

*January 26- [To Advance Information on Quality of Care, CMS Makes Nursing Home Staffing Data Available](#). As part of its commitment to improve transparency and help families and caregivers find the best quality of nursing home care for their loved ones, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will begin posting for the first time ever, staff turnover rates and weekend staff levels for nursing homes on the [Medicare.gov Care Compare website](#) today. Staffing in nursing homes has a substantial impact on the quality of care and outcomes residents experience. Having access to this information helps consumers understand more about each nursing home facility's staffing environment and choose a facility that provides the highest quality of care that best meets the healthcare needs of their loved one.

*January 27- [CMS Commits Over \\$49 Million to Reduce Uninsured Rate Among Children and Boost Medicaid Enrollment Among Parents, Pregnant People](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) committed a record \$49.4 million to fund organizations that can connect more eligible children, parents, and pregnant individuals to health care coverage through Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Awardees—including state/local governments, tribal organizations, federal health safety net organizations, non-profits, schools, and others—will receive up to \$1.5 million each for a three-year period to reduce the number of uninsured children by advancing Medicaid/CHIP enrollment and retention.

*January 27- [Biden-Harris Administration Announces 14.5 Million Americans Signed Up for Affordable Health Care During Historic Open Enrollment Period](#). Today, the Biden-Harris Administration announced a record-breaking 14.5 million people have signed up for 2022 health care coverage through the Marketplaces during the historic Marketplace Open Enrollment Period (OEP) from November 1, 2021 through January 15, 2022 – including 5.8 million people who have newly gained coverage under the Administration. The American Rescue Plan lowered health care costs for most Marketplace consumers and increased enrollment to these records levels: HealthCare.gov consumers saw their average monthly premium fall by 23%, compared to the 2021 enrollment period that ended before the American Rescue Plan passed. The enrollment numbers are a testament to the Biden-Harris Administration's commitment to lowering costs for working families and reaching people where they are through concerted outreach.

Fact Sheets

*January 21- [FACT SHEET: HHS Reproductive Healthcare Access Task Force](#). Over the past decade, there has been an unprecedented number of laws enacted, regulations promulgated, and policies adopted that undermine access to sexual and reproductive health care services in the U.S. and globally. The COVID-19 pandemic has further disrupted access to reproductive health services and exacerbated inequalities in access to care. Furthermore, the Supreme Court's decisions in three reproductive health care cases this term could both impact the right to abortion and have a chilling effect on the provision of other essential reproductive health services. In light of these challenges, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has taken several meaningful actions under the Biden-Harris administration to protect and bolster reproductive health, rights, and justice.

*January 27- [Marketplace 2022 Open Enrollment Period Report: Final National Snapshot](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) reports that 14.5 million Americans have signed up for or were automatically re-enrolled in 2022 individual market health insurance coverage through the Marketplaces since the start of the 2022 Marketplace Open Enrollment Period (OEP) on November 1, 2021 through January 15, 2022. This includes 10.3 million plan selections in the 33 states using the HealthCare.gov platform for the 2022 plan year, where the OEP ran through January 15, 2022, and 4.2 million plan selections in the 17 states and the District of Columbia with State-based Marketplaces (SBMs) that are using their own eligibility and enrollment platforms, through January 15, 2022, which represents the end of the OEP for many of the SBMs.[\[1\]](#)

Blog

*January 27- [It's tax season! Find Form 1095-A](#). If anyone in your household had a Marketplace plan in 2021, you'll need Form 1095-A, Health Insurance Marketplace® Statement, to file your federal taxes. You should get it in the mail by early February. Keep it with your important tax information, like W-2 forms and other records.

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