



## CMS Snapshot

### January 27- February 3, 2022

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, January 27 through 2pm Thursday, February 3, 2022.

#### News Releases

\*January 27- [Readout of Secretary Becerra's Virtual Roundtable On State of Obesity And Nutrition Amidst The Pandemic](#). On January 27, 2022, Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra hosted a virtual roundtable on nutrition and obesity, focused on tackling health disparities and addressing the disproportionate impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on people with obesity.

\*January 31- [HHS Announces a Standard Clinical Definition for Opioid Withdrawal in Infants](#). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) together with leading clinicians, researchers, and policy experts led the development of a standard clinical definition for opioid withdrawal in infants to help improve care. It is accompanied with a set of foundational principles that outlines bioethical uses for the definition, distinctly centering around identifying clinical and supportive care needs of mothers and their infants, using an evidence-based, compassionate, and equitable approach.

\*January 31- [Secretary Becerra Announces New HHS Task Force to Prevent Human Trafficking](#). Today, Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra publicly announced the formation of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Task Force to Prevent Human Trafficking (the Task Force). The Task Force will facilitate implementation of the priority actions HHS has committed to in President Biden's [National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking](#), as well as strengthen HHS' human trafficking prevention and intervention efforts with a focus on partnerships, equity, and open data.

\*February 2- [Statement by HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra on Black History Month](#). Today, Secretary Xavier Becerra released the following statement in honor of Black History Month, along with a [fact sheet detailing the actions the Department of Health and Human Services \(HHS\) has taken to advance health equity and improve health outcomes for Black communities](#).

\*February 2- [CMS Releases 2023 Medicare Advantage and Part D Advance Notice](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released proposed payment policy changes for Medicare Advantage and Part D drug programs in 2023 that will create more choices and provide affordable options for consumers that meet their unique health needs. The Calendar Year (CY) 2023 Advance Notice for Medicare Advantage (MA) and Part D plans is open to public comment for 30 days. This year, CMS is specifically soliciting input through a health equity lens on the approach to some future potential changes.

\*February 2- [Readout of Secretary Becerra's Virtual Roundtable on Build Back Better's Impact on Labor Unions](#). On February 2, 2022, Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra hosted a virtual roundtable with labor union leaders to discuss the impact that the passage of the Biden-Harris Administration's Build Back Better legislation could have on their members and workplaces.

\*February 3- [Biden-Harris Administration Will Cover Free Over-the-Counter COVID-19 Tests Through Medicare](#). As part of the Biden-Harris Administration's ongoing efforts to expand Americans' access to free testing, people in either Original Medicare or Medicare Advantage will be able to get over-the-counter COVID-19 tests at no cost starting in early spring. Under the new initiative, Medicare beneficiaries will be able to access up to eight over-the-counter COVID-19 tests per month for free. Tests will be available through eligible pharmacies and other participating entities. This policy will apply to COVID-19 over-the-counter tests approved or authorized by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

## Fact Sheets

\*February 2- [2023 Medicare Advantage and Part D Advance Notice Fact Sheet](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released the Calendar Year (CY) 2023 Advance Notice of Methodological Changes for Medicare Advantage (MA) Capitation Rates and Part C and Part D Payment Policies (the Advance Notice). CMS will accept comments on the CY 2023 Advance Notice through Friday, March 4, 2022, before publishing the final Rate Announcement by April 4, 2022.

\*February 2- [Fact Sheet: Celebrating Black History Month 2022](#). The Biden-Harris Administration is committed to advancing health equity and improving health outcomes of Black communities. The following is a snapshot of various efforts made by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

*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)*