



CMS Snapshot

September 1-8, 2022

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, September 1 through 2pm Thursday, September 8, 2022

News Releases

*September 2- [HHS announces award of \\$2 million grant to the American Academy of Pediatrics to establish National Center of Excellence on Social Media and Mental Wellness.](#) *Center intended to make social media platforms safer for children and youth by developing and disseminating information, guidance, training on the impact of social media use.* As part of the Biden-Harris Administration's [Strategy to Address the National Mental Health Crisis](#), the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), [awarded](#) \$2 million in funding Thursday to the American Academy of Pediatrics to establish a [National Center of Excellence on Social Media and Mental Wellness](#).

*September 6- [Make Your Voice Heard Request for Information Seeks Public Comment to Promote Efficiency, Reduce Burden, and Advance Equity within CMS Programs.](#) Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released a Request For Information (RFI) seeking public input on accessing healthcare and related challenges, understanding provider experiences, advancing health equity, and assessing the impact of waivers and flexibilities provided in response to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency.

*September 6- [HHS Awards \\$20 Million Contract to AmerisourceBergen to Expand, Quicken Distribution of Vaccines and Treatments for Monkeypox.](#) The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) today announced that it is significantly expanding the number of locations nationwide that can be supported with direct federal shipments of vaccine and treatments, further speeding delivery of these medical countermeasures to communities at the greatest risk of monkeypox infections.

*September 7- [HHS Secretary Becerra Issues 564 Declaration to Expand the Availability of Testing for Monkeypox.](#) Today, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra signed a [declaration](#) under section 564 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to allow the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Commissioner to issue emergency use

authorizations for in vitro diagnostics to expand the availability of tests for monkeypox. This follows the August 4 [declaration](#) of a public health emergency for monkeypox.

*September 7- [Statement from HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra on CDC's Recommendation of An Updated COVID-19 Vaccine](#). *Updated COVID-19 shots are expected to protect against the currently circulating Omicron variant, with our nation likely on a path where the majority of Americans without significant health risks can be protected against serious illness, hospitalization, and death by getting an annual shot.* In response to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) recommendation of an updated COVID-19 shot, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra issued the statement below after signing a [directive - PDF](#) to ensure the vaccine is widely available. CDC's recommendation followed the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA's) authorization.

*September 8- [New Rule Makes Clear that Noncitizens Who Receive Health or Other Benefits to which they are Entitled Will Not Suffer Harmful Immigration Consequences](#). *Accessing Children's Health Insurance Program and Most Medicaid Benefits Will Not Affect Immigration Status.* Today, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) issued a final rule applicable to noncitizens who receive or wish to apply for benefits provided by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and States that support low-income families and adults. The rule, which details how DHS will interpret the "public charge" ground of inadmissibility, will help ensure that noncitizens can access health-related benefits and other supplemental government services to which they are entitled by law, without triggering harmful immigration consequences. By codifying in regulation the "totality of the circumstances" approach that is authorized by statute and which has long been utilized by DHS, the rule makes it clear that individual factors, such as a person's disability or use of benefits alone will not lead to a public charge determination.

*September 8- [HHS Approves 12-Month Extension of Postpartum Medicaid and CHIP Coverage in Indiana and West Virginia](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), approved the extension of Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) coverage for 12 months after pregnancy in Indiana and West Virginia. As a result, up to an additional [15,000 people annually](#) – including 12,000 in Indiana and 3,000 in West Virginia – will now be eligible for Medicaid or CHIP for a full year after pregnancy. With today's approval, in combination with previously approved state extensions, an estimated 333,000 Americans annually in 23 states and D.C. are eligible for 12 months of postpartum coverage.

*September 8- [HHS Joins CFPB to Protect Nursing Home Residents and Their Caregivers from Illegal Debt Collection Practices](#). *In Joint Letter with CFPB, HHS Stresses to Nursing Homes and Debt Collectors Prohibition on Requiring Caregivers to Assume Responsibility for Cost of Resident's Care.* Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), doubled down on its work to protect nursing home residents and their caregivers from illegal methods of guaranteeing payment for care.

Fact Sheets

*September 1- [Contact Center Operations Contract Award](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) awarded the Contact Center Operations (CCO) contract to accept and respond to customer inquiries to Maximus Federal Services, Inc. (Maximus) under a full and open competition that began in November 2019. The contract award includes a base period for transition plus nine (one year) option periods, with a total contract value of \$6.6 billion.

*September 8- [Supporting Maternal Health Through Medicaid & the Children's Health Insurance Program](#). As noted in a [report](#) published by the Health & Human Services (HHS) Office of Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, one in three pregnancy-related deaths occur between one week and one year after childbirth. The postpartum period is critical for recovering from childbirth, addressing complications of delivery, ensuring mental health, managing infant care, and transitioning from obstetric to primary care.

Blogs

*September 1- [The HHS Office for Civil Rights Celebrates National Recovery Month](#). By: [Melanie Fontes Rainer](#), *Acting Director for Office for Civil Rights (OCR)*. Every September, our country celebrates National Recovery Month to highlight that behavioral health is an essential part of health care. Supporting our loved ones and communities in recovery is a critical effort and one that the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) is proud to work on to ensure that all people have equal access to health care, no matter where they live or who they are. These efforts are part of the Biden-Harris Administration's commitment to advancing health equity and civil rights, as laid out in President Biden's executive orders on [Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities](#) and [Preventing and Combatting Discrimination on the Basis of Gender Identity or Sexual Orientation](#).

*September 6- [Office for Human Research Protections Exploratory Workshop: Beyond Altruism – Exploring Payment for Research Participation](#). By: [Rachel Levine, M.D.](#), *Assistant Secretary for Health (ASH)*. At the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), we are committed to addressing inequities and advancing equity in health care, which begins with high-quality health research. HHS is also actively working to shift the culture, resources, and approaches to institutionalize and sustain a focus on equity over time. This includes promoting shifts in practices that have traditionally perpetuated inequities in research and research participation.

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