



CMS Snapshot

March 31-April 7, 2022

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, March 31 through 2pm Thursday, April 7, 2022.

News Releases

*March 31- [HHS to Provide \\$110 Million to Strengthen Safety Net for Seniors and People with Disabilities](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced it will offer more than \$110 million to expand access to home and community-based services (HCBS) through Medicaid's Money Follows the Person (MFP) program. First authorized in 2005, MFP has provided states with \$4.06 billion to support people who choose to transition out of institutions and back into their homes and communities. The new Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) makes individual awards of up to \$5 million available for more than 20 states and territories not currently participating in MFP.

*April 1- [Thousands More People with Medicaid and CHIP Coverage Now Eligible to Access Critical Postpartum Coverage Thanks to the American Rescue Plan](#). The Biden-Harris Administration is announcing that, beginning today, as many as 720,000 pregnant and postpartum people across the United States could be guaranteed Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) coverage for a full 12 months after pregnancy thanks to the American Rescue Plan (ARP).

*April 1- [Health Resources and Services Administration Announces Availability of New Funding to Support Community-Based Doulas](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), announced the availability of \$4.5 million for hiring, training, certifying, and compensating community-based doulas in areas with high rates of adverse maternal and infant health outcomes. This announcement builds on the Biden-Harris Administration's commitment to [reduce maternal mortality and morbidity](#) and [address the nation's Black maternal health crisis](#).

*April 4- [Biden-Harris Administration Announces a New Way for Medicare Beneficiaries to Get Free Over-the-Counter COVID-19 Tests](#). The Biden-Harris Administration is announcing today that more than 59 million Americans with Medicare Part B, including those enrolled in a Medicare Advantage plan, now have access to Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved,

authorized, or cleared over-the-counter COVID-19 tests at no cost. People with Medicare can get up to eight tests per calendar month from participating pharmacies and health care providers for the duration of the COVID-19 public health emergency.

*April 4- [Newly Appointed HHS Region 10 Director Visits Oregon to Thank Providers and Workers on The Front Lines of the COVID-19 Response and Promote Mental Health and Well-Being](#). Last week, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Region 10 Director, [Ingrid Ulrey](#), appointed by the Biden-Harris Administration in November 2021, visited Oregon to engage with intergovernmental leaders and external stakeholders who have been key in fighting COVID-19, and to discuss the Biden-Harris Administration and HHS's initiatives to tackle the nation's mental health crisis.

*April 5- [Remarks by Secretary Xavier Becerra at White House COVID-19 Briefing on New Federal Plan to Accelerate Support for People Experiencing Long-Term Effects of COVID-19](#). *As Delivered*. Thank you, Dr. Fauci. When it comes to COVID, we have more tools than ever before to stay safe, from vaccines and boosters, to treatments and tests. All widely available at no cost to the American people thanks to our national COVID response over the past year.

*April 6- [Eligible Individuals Can Receive Second COVID-19 Booster Shot at No Cost](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced it will pay for a second COVID-19 booster shot of either the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccines without cost sharing as it continues to provide coverage for this critical protection from the virus. People with Medicare pay nothing to receive a COVID-19 vaccine and there is no applicable copayment, coinsurance or deductible. People with Medicaid coverage can also get COVID-19 vaccines, including boosters, at no cost.

*April 6- [HHS' Office for Civil Rights Seeks Public Comment on Recognized Security Practices and Sharing Civil Money Penalties and Monetary Settlements Under the HITECH Act](#). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Office for Civil Rights (OCR) today released a Request for Information (RFI) seeking input from the public on two requirements of the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act of 2009 (HITECH Act), as amended in 2021.

*April 7- [CMS Returning to Certain Pre-COVID-19 Policies in Long-term Care and Other Facilities](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is taking steps to continue to protect nursing home residents' health and safety by announcing guidance that restores certain minimum standards for compliance with CMS requirements. Restoring these standards will be accomplished by phasing out some temporary emergency declaration waivers that have been in effect throughout the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE). These temporary emergency waivers were designed to provide facilities with the flexibilities needed to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Fact Sheets

*March 31- [Fiscal Year 2023 Medicare Inpatient Psychiatric Facility Prospective Payment System Proposed Rule \(CMS-1769-P\)](#). On March 31, 2022, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a proposed rule to update Medicare payment policies and rates for the Inpatient Psychiatric Facility Prospective Payment System (IPF PPS) for fiscal year (FY) 2023. CMS is publishing this proposed rule consistent with the legal requirements to update Medicare payment policies for IPFs on an annual basis.

*March 31- [Fiscal Year 2023 Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility Prospective Payment System Proposed Rule \(CMS-1767-P\)](#). On March 31, 2022, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a proposed rule to update Medicare payment policies and rates under the Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility (IRF) Prospective Payment System (PPS) and the IRF Quality Reporting Program (QRP) for fiscal year (FY) 2023. CMS is publishing this proposed rule in accordance with the legal requirements to update Medicare payment policies for IRFs on an annual basis.

*April 4- [2023 Medicare Advantage and Part D Rate Announcement](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released the Announcement of Calendar Year (CY) 2023 Medicare Advantage (MA) Capitation Rates and Part C and Part D Payment Policies (the Rate Announcement). CMS's goals for Medicare Advantage and Part D mirror our vision for the agency's programs as a whole, which is to advance health equity; drive comprehensive, person-centered care; and promote affordability and the sustainability of the Medicare program.

*April 4- [Medicare Covers Over-the-Counter COVID-19 Tests](#). Medicare has a new initiative that will cover up to eight over-the-counter COVID-19 tests each calendar month, at no cost to you.

Blogs

*March 31- [OHRP Research Community Forum "Embracing Diversity and Innovation in Research" with Northwell Health, virtual on May 11-12](#). At HHS we fight every day to improve the health and well-being of all Americans, especially those marginalized by discrimination and social and political factors. Many of the advances in medicine and public health essential to this effort require research and clinical trials that rely on volunteers. We understand that protecting the rights, welfare, and well-being of research participants is crucial to promoting public trust in research and ensuring the engagement of diverse communities. This protection remains our highest priority.

*April 1- [Next time, get your "Medicare & You" handbook electronically!](#) Perhaps you got your copy of the 2022 ["Medicare & You" handbook](#) in the mail last fall, as you did the year before that. And the year before that. Maybe it's time to go digital. When you sign up for the e-version of the "Medicare & You" handbook, you'll get information faster, while saving tax dollars and

helping the environment. The online eHandbook has all the same information as your trusted paper copy of the “Medicare & You” handbook—plus it’s searchable, letting you find the information you need quickly and easily.

*April 4- [Getting Children Back on Track with Routine Vaccinations](#). The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted life-saving vaccination at a global level, putting millions at risk for life-threatening diseases. We saw [notable decreases](#) in childhood vaccine ordering and administration between 2019 and 2020. Top of mind for me this April—a month that includes [Adolescent Immunization Action Week](#) , [National Public Health Week](#) , [World Health Day](#)  and [National Infant Immunization Week](#)—is that due to advances in medical science, and vaccines specifically, our loved ones are protected from more diseases than ever before. Some diseases that once injured or killed thousands of people have been eliminated primarily due to vaccines.

*April 7- [2021 Marketplace coverage? Beat the filing deadline & get tax tips](#). The last day to file your 2021 federal income taxes is April 18, 2022 – that’s less than 2 weeks away! If anyone in your household had Marketplace health coverage in 2021, you should have received [Form 1095-A, Health Insurance Marketplace® Statement](#). (If you didn’t get the form online or by mail, [contact the Marketplace Call Center](#).)

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