



CMS Snapshot

April 7-14, 2022

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, April 7 through 2pm Thursday, April 14, 2022

News Releases

*April 7- [CMS Finalizes Medicare Coverage Policy for Monoclonal Antibodies Directed Against Amyloid for the Treatment of Alzheimer’s Disease](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released a national policy for coverage of aducanumab (brand name Aduhelm™) and any future monoclonal antibodies directed against amyloid approved by the FDA with an indication for use in treating Alzheimer’s disease. From the onset, CMS ran a transparent, evidence-based process that incorporated more than 10,000 stakeholder comments and more than 250 peer-reviewed documents into the determination.

*April 7- [Remarks by HHS Secretary Becerra during a joint press conference on World Health Day with the World Health Organization Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus](#). On Thursday, April 7, 2022, U.S. Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra and World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus held a joint press conference on World Health Day.

*April 8- [Joint Statement from CMS Administrator Chiquita Brooks-LaSure and FDA Commissioner Robert M. Califf, M.D., on Ensuring Access to Safe and Effective Treatments](#). Ensuring the availability of innovative interventions for people is a shared priority for both the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). We recognize the important and related – but different – roles of our respective agencies and know that CMS and FDA decisions have an outsized impact on the U.S. health care system, as well as implications for the rest of the world.

*April 11- [HHS Takes Actions to Promote Safety and Quality in Nursing Homes](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued its fiscal year (FY) 2023 Skilled Nursing Facilities Prospective Payment System (SNF PPS) proposed rule, which includes asking for public feedback on how staffing in nursing homes and health equity improvements could lead to better health outcomes.

*April 11- [Secretary Becerra and HHS Leaders Celebrate Black Maternal Health Week 2022](#).

Today, Secretary Xavier Becerra and leaders across the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released the following statements in recognition of Black Maternal Health Week, which takes place this year from April 11 –17. In recognition of Black Maternal Health Week, President Biden also [issued a proclamation](#) underscoring the Administration’s commitment to addressing the crisis of Black maternal mortality and morbidity across our country.

*April 11- [HHS Takes Actions to Promote Safety and Quality in Nursing Homes](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued its fiscal year (FY) 2023 Skilled Nursing Facilities Prospective Payment System (SNF PPS) proposed rule, which includes asking for public feedback on how staffing in nursing homes and health equity improvements could lead to better health outcomes.

*April 11- [Remarks by HHS Secretary Becerra at the White House Medical Debt Event with Vice President Harris](#). On Monday, April 11, 2022, Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra joined Vice President Kamala Harris and other Administration officials at the White House to deliver remarks at an event focused on new actions the Biden-Harris Administration is taking to lessen medical debt and protect consumers. HHS released the following [letter to grantees - PDF](#) about the efforts that the Department will initiate. The event is part of the Administration’s work to reduce burdens and barriers imposed by medical debt advanced in its [Executive Order 14070 on Continuing to Strengthen Americans’ Access to Affordable, Quality Health Coverage](#).

*April 13- [HHS Awards \\$16 Million to Strengthen the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program, Announces \\$9 Million Available to Expand State Maternal Health Innovation and Implementation Program](#). Today, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), announced approximately \$16 million to strengthen Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Programs through seven awards supporting eight states. These awards will advance data and technology innovations to support positive maternal and child health outcomes in states and communities, and focus on addressing health disparities. This announcement comes as the Biden-Harris Administration recognizes Black Maternal Health Week, which takes place this year from April 11 –17, 2022. The Administration has championed policies to improve maternal health and equity and addressing the maternal mortality and morbidity crisis.

*April 13- [CMS Announces Key Actions to Reduce Maternal Mortality and Morbidity](#). Today, as part of the Biden-Harris Administration’s Call to Action to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is releasing more details about the proposed “Birthing-Friendly” hospital designation intended to drive improvements in maternal health outcomes. The new designation would assist consumers in choosing hospitals that have demonstrated a commitment to maternal health and the delivery of high-quality maternity care. Additional information about the initial requirements for the designation will be

released in the coming days as a part of the Hospital Inpatient Prospective Payment System (IPPS) proposed rule.

*April 14- [Proposed Scientific Questions to Inform the Development of the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2025-2030* Available for Public Comment Starting April 15th](#). As the first step in the development process of the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2025-2030* (*Dietary Guidelines*), the U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Agriculture (USDA) are releasing proposed scientific questions for public comment. The public comment period will be open for 30 days starting April 15, 2022, through May 16, 2022 at 11:59 PM ET. HHS and USDA are committed to transparency and providing opportunities for public participation during this five-step process leading up to the release of the *Dietary Guidelines* in 2025.

*April 14- [HHS Statements on New Plan to Advance Equity in the Delivery of Health and Human Services](#). Today, Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra and the co-chairs of the department's Health Disparities Council—Assistant Secretary for Health Admiral Rachel Levine and the Acting Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation Rebecca Haffajee—released statements on HHS' new [Equity Action Plan - PDF](#) to advance equity in the delivery of health and human services.

*April 14- [Readout of HHS Secretary Becerra's Black Maternal Health Discussion with State Leaders](#). On Thursday, April 14, 2022, Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra participated in a discussion on advancing equity in maternal health, with state leaders, including New Jersey First Lady Tammy Murphy and Washington First Spouse Trudi Inslee. Secretary Becerra highlighted the federal government's work around equity in maternal health. This event took place during Black Maternal Health Week (April 11-17, 2022), following the first-ever White House meeting on maternal health convened by Vice President Kamala Harris with Cabinet Secretaries and agency leaders. The Administration made several [announcements](#) aimed to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity, including the proposal of a "Birthing-Friendly" hospital designation to drive improvements in maternal health outcomes.

Fact Sheets

*April 7- [Medicare Coverage Policy for Monoclonal Antibodies Directed Against Amyloid for the Treatment of Alzheimer's Disease](#). CMS is announcing a final Medicare national coverage determination (NCD) that covers Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved monoclonal antibodies directed against amyloid for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease (AD) when furnished in accordance to the Coverage Criteria specified below under coverage with evidence development (CED) for patients who have a clinical diagnosis of mild cognitive impairment (MCI) due to AD or mild AD dementia, both with confirmed presence of amyloid beta pathology consistent with AD.

*April 11- [Fiscal Year \(FY\) 2023 Skilled Nursing Facility Prospective Payment System Proposed Rule \(CMS 1765-P\)](#). On April 11, 2022, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a proposed rule that would update Medicare payment policies and rates for skilled nursing facilities under the Skilled Nursing Facility Prospective Payment System (SNF PPS) for fiscal year (FY) 2023. In addition, the proposed rule includes proposals for the SNF Quality Reporting Program (QRP) and the SNF Value-Based Program (VBP) for FY 2023 and future years. CMS is publishing this proposed rule consistent with the legal requirements to update Medicare payment policies for nursing homes on an annual basis. This fact sheet discusses the major provisions of the proposed rule.

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