



CMS Snapshot

October 20-27, 2022

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

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

News Releases

*October 21- [Biden-Harris Administration Strengthens Oversight of Nation's Poorest-Performing Nursing Homes](#). *Changes to CMS' Special Focus Facilities program will increase scrutiny, hold facilities accountable for substandard safety and quality, and improve care for residents.* As part of the Biden-Harris Administration's continued commitment to improve the safety and quality of care for nursing home residents, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is increasing scrutiny and oversight over the country's poorest-performing nursing facilities in an effort to immediately improve the care they deliver. In a series of revisions to the Special Focus Facility (SFF) Program, CMS will toughen requirements for completion of the program and increase enforcement actions for facilities that fail to demonstrate improvement. CMS is also calling on states to consider a facility's staffing level in determining which facilities enter the SFF Program.

*October 21- [HHS Invests \\$13 Million to Grow and Strengthen the Nursing Workforce](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), awarded \$13 million to bolster nursing education and training to grow the nursing workforce and improve access to nursing education. Today's awards are part of a [series of Biden-Harris Administration investments](#) across HHS and the Department of Labor to support pathways into good-quality nursing jobs. Investing in the nursing workforce pipeline is a key pillar of President Biden's action plan to improve the safety and quality of care in the nation's nursing homes.

*October 21- [HHS Announces More Than \\$100 Million in Bipartisan Safer Communities Act Funds for States and Territories to Improve Mental Health Services](#). *\$59.4 Million Awarded to States and Territories in Community Mental Health Services Block Grant Funding for Emergency Preparedness and Crisis Response. \$50 Million Will Help States and Territories Expand and Enhance 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline Services.* The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), announced more than \$100 million this week in funding from the Bipartisan Safer

Communities Act (BSCA) to states and territories for mental health emergency preparedness, crisis response, and the expansion of 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline services. BSCA, signed into law by President Biden earlier this year, provided unprecedented funding to address the nation's mental health crisis and make our communities safer.

*October 24- [COVID-19 Updated Booster Vaccines Covered Without Cost-Sharing for Eligible Children Ages 5 to 11](#). Following the actions of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is announcing that Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) coverage is available for eligible covered children for the updated COVID-19 vaccines. As a reminder, regardless of what coverage you have, or whether you have coverage at all, COVID-19 vaccines are free to anyone who wants one, for both children and adults. This coverage is part of the ongoing commitment to protect children against severe COVID-19 illness.

*October 25- [Ahead of Open Enrollment, New HHS Report Shows Major Gains in Marketplace Enrollment Among Black and Latino Populations Last Year](#). *Biden-Harris Administration's Expanded Premium Tax Credits from the Inflation Reduction Act Will Lock in Cost Savings and Protect Access to Affordable Coverage for Underserved Populations*. Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released a new report showing significant gains in health insurance coverage during the 2021 and 2022 HealthCare.gov Open Enrollment periods among populations with historically higher uninsured rates such as Black and Latino consumers. After substantially increasing Affordable Care Act Marketplace outreach and education, and with the American Rescue Plan's enhanced and expanded premium tax credits, Black consumers saw a 49 percent increase in enrollment from 2020, Latino consumers saw a 53 percent increase in enrollment from 2020, and American Indian and Alaska Native consumers saw a 32 percent enrollment increase from 2020. Released just ahead of Open Enrollment for 2023, which begins November 1, the report illustrates the success of the Biden-Harris Administration's increased outreach efforts and the positive impact of the premium support that will remain in effect thanks to President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act.

*October 26- [Biden-Harris Administration Launches Window-Shopping for Affordable and Accessible Health Care Marketplace](#). *Ahead of 10th Open Enrollment period, Biden-Harris Administration announces high levels of health plan affordability, quality, and choice, and a record number of outreach efforts to connect Americans to coverage*. The Biden-Harris Administration has made expanding access to health insurance and lowering health care costs for America's families a top priority, and, starting today, consumers can preview their health care coverage options and see the savings available to them in the most competitive Marketplace in history. Consumers can now visit HealthCare.gov to view detailed information about 2023 health insurance plans and prices offered in their area in advance of the 2023 Marketplace Open Enrollment period that begins November 1, 2022.

*October 27- [Biden-Harris Administration Announces More than Half of All States Have Expanded Access to 12 Months of Medicaid and CHIP Postpartum Coverage](#). Today, the U.S.

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), announced that more than half of all states have expanded access to 12 months of Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) coverage after pregnancy. Georgia and Pennsylvania are the 25th and 26th states to be approved for the extended coverage, made possible by provisions in the American Rescue Plan (ARP), signed into law by President Biden in March of 2021.

Blogs

*October 25- [Liver Cancer Doesn't Need to be Scary](#) By: [B. Kaye Hayes, MPA](#), Deputy Assistant Secretary for Infectious Disease and Director of the Office of Infectious Disease and HIV/AIDS Policy. **Summary:** October is Liver Cancer Awareness Month and the most common risk factors for liver cancer are chronic hepatitis B and C. October usually is a time when people think of leaves changing color, scary decorations, and pumpkins. Each October, I also think about liver cancer, because it's Liver Cancer Awareness Month.

*October 26- [Plan ahead with 2023 plans & price estimates](#). Open Enrollment starts November 1! Preview 2023 plans with personalized price estimates based on next year's estimated income and household size.

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