



## CMS Snapshot

### June 23-30, 2022

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, June 23 through 2pm Thursday, June 30, 2022

#### News Releases

\*June 23- [HHS Announces Historic, First-in-the-Nation Program that Seeks to Expand Coverage to Nearly 10,000 Coloradans](#) Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced approval of Colorado's Section 1332 State Innovation Waiver amendment request to create the "Colorado Option," a state-specific health coverage plan that increases health coverage enrollment and lowers health care costs, making insurance more affordable and accessible for nearly 10,000 Coloradans starting in 2023. It is designed to reduce racial and ethnic health disparities by providing new coverage options for Coloradans, reflecting the Biden-Harris Administration's commitment to advancing health equity.

\*June 23- [Statement by HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra on FDA's Marketing Denial Orders to JUUL](#) Today, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued marketing denial orders (MDOs) to JUUL Labs Inc. for all their products currently marketed in the U.S. As a result, JUUL must stop selling and distributing these products. In addition, those currently on the U.S. market must be removed, or the FDA may take enforcement action.

\*June 24- [HHS Announces Programs to Join President Biden's Justice40 Initiative](#) President Biden is committed to securing environmental justice and spurring economic opportunity for disadvantaged communities that are marginalized and overburdened by pollution and underinvestment in housing, transportation, water and wastewater infrastructure, and health care.

\*June 24- [Statement from CMS Administrator Chiquita Brooks-LaSure on Access to Reproductive Health Care](#) A woman's right to make decisions about her health is essential. As we review today's Supreme Court decision, as the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, I will do everything in my authority to ensure that people have the choice of when and how to start a family.

\*June 24- [HHS Secretary Becerra's Statement on Supreme Court Ruling in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization](#) Today, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra

released the following after the Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe v. Wade: "Today's decision is unconscionable. Abortion is a basic and essential part of health care – and patients must have the right to make decisions about their health care and autonomy over their own bodies. For decades, both as a member of Congress and as California's Attorney General, I have stood with people around the country to fight for reproductive freedom for everyone, no matter who you are, where you live or how much you make.

\*June 25- [Know Your Rights: Reproductive Health Care](#) Reproductive health care, including access to birth control and safe and legal abortion care, is an essential part of your health and well-being. While Roe v. Wade was overturned, abortion remains legal in many states, and other reproductive health care services remain protected by law. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is committed to providing you with accurate and up-to-date information about access to and coverage of reproductive health care and resources. Our goal is to make sure you have appropriate information and support.

\*June 27- [Secretaries Becerra, Walsh and Yellen Underscore Contraceptive Coverage Requirements for Private Insurance](#) Today, Secretaries Xavier Becerra, Marty Walsh, and Janet L. Yellen of the U.S. Departments of Health & Human Services, Labor and Treasury (Departments), respectively, issued a letter to group health plans and health insurance issuers reminding them of their obligations under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) to provide coverage for contraceptive services at no cost.

\*June 27- [Biden Administration Announces New Model to Improve Cancer Care for Medicare Patients](#) Today, the Biden Administration, through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), announced a new model aimed at improving cancer care for Medicare patients and lowering health care costs. CMS' Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (Innovation Center) designed the Enhancing Oncology Model (EOM) to test how to improve health care providers' ability to deliver care centered around patients, consider patients' unique needs, and deliver cancer care in a way that will generate the best possible patient outcomes.

\*June 27- [Two Operation Fly Formula Flights Scheduled for Week of June 27](#) There are two Operation Fly Formula flights currently scheduled for the week of June 27, projected to import approximately 4.3 million 8-ounce bottle equivalents of infant formula to the United States. By July 3, Operation Fly Formula flights will have completed 37 flights and imported more than 37.2 million 8-ounce bottle equivalents of infant formula.

\*June 27- [Readout of HHS Secretary Becerra's Roundtable with Trans Youth](#) On Monday, June 27, 2022, U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Becerra hosted families with transgender children from Massachusetts, Virginia, Texas, California, Georgia, and Florida to hear about their families' experiences. He emphasized the Department's commitment to protecting access to health care, including gender-affirming care. January Contreras, the Assistant Secretary for

the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) and Admiral Rachel Levine, the Assistant Secretary for Health (ASH), joined him.

\*June 27- [Secretaries Becerra, Walsh meet with health insurers, employee benefit plan stakeholders to discuss birth control coverage](#) U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Xavier Becerra and U.S. Secretary of Labor Marty Walsh met with leaders from health insurers and employee benefit plans to call on the insurance industry to commit to meeting their obligations to provide access to contraception as required by the law.

\*June 28- [Vermont Global Commitment to Health Section 1115 Demonstration Extension Approval](#) The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is approving an extension of Vermont's Medicaid section 1115 demonstration, "Global Commitment to Health." This extension will enable the state to continue to test, monitor, and evaluate a managed care-like delivery system, home and community-based services, and novel pilot programs, as well as pursue innovations to maintain high-quality services and programs that are cost-effective.

\*June 28- [Remarks by Secretary Xavier Becerra at the Press Conference in Response to President Biden's Directive following Overturning of Roe v. Wade](#) On Friday, June 24th, five Americans decided to use the vast power bestowed upon them by our democracy and our Constitution to unconscionably put at risk the life and health of millions of their fellow Americans. They chose to unconscionably limit Americans' established freedom and autonomy to control their own body — decisions usually made in consultation with their doctor, not a politician.

\*June 28- [HHS Announces Enhanced Strategy to Vaccinate and Protect At-Risk Individuals from the Current Monkeypox Outbreak](#) The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) today announced an enhanced nationwide vaccination strategy to mitigate the spread of monkeypox. The strategy will vaccinate and protect those at-risk of monkeypox, prioritize vaccines for areas with the highest numbers of cases, and provide guidance to state, territorial, tribal, and local health officials to aide their planning and response efforts.

\*June 29- [CMS Issues Significant Updates to Improve the Safety and Quality Care for Long-Term Care Residents and Calls for Reducing Room Crowding](#) Today, as part of the [Biden-Harris Administration's initiative](#) to promote the safety and quality of nursing home care across the country, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued updates to guidance on minimum health and safety standards that Long-Term Care (LTC) facilities (often called "nursing homes") must meet to participate in Medicare and Medicaid. CMS also updated and developed new guidance in the State Operations Manual (SOM) to address issues that significantly affect residents of LTC facilities.

\*June 29- [Biden-Harris Administration secures 105 million doses of Pfizer's latest COVID-19 vaccine for fall vaccination campaign](#) The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), in collaboration with the Department of Defense, today announced an agreement to purchase 105 million doses of Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine for a fall vaccination campaign, with options for

up to 300 million doses. The contract announcement follows a June 28 meeting of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA's) Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee meeting, which recommended the inclusion of an Omicron component for COVID-19 booster vaccines in the U.S.

\*June 29- [HHS Issues Guidance to Protect Patient Privacy in Wake of Supreme Court Decision on Roe](#) On the heels of the Supreme Court ruling in *Dobbs vs. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, where the right to safe and legal abortion was taken away, President Biden and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra [called on HHS agencies](#) to take action to protect access to sexual and reproductive health care, including abortion, pregnancy complications, and other related care. Today, in direct response, the HHS Office for Civil Rights (OCR) issued new guidance to help protect patients seeking reproductive health care, as well as their providers.

\*June 30-[Biden-Harris Administration catalyzes private health sector commitments to reduce climate impacts and protect public health](#) Today, the Biden-Harris Administration is announcing how President Biden's leadership on climate change is [catalyzing private health sector commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions](#), strengthen climate resilience, and protect public health. At a White House event with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and partners from across the health sector, participants pledged to cut their greenhouse gas emissions by 50 percent by 2030 and to achieve net zero emissions by 2050, in line with goals set by President Biden for the U.S., while producing detailed plans to prepare their facilities and communities for both chronic and catastrophic climate impacts.

\*June 30-[Statement by HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra on the Supreme Court Ruling Blocking Federal Air Pollution Standards for Power Plants](#) U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra issued the following statement in response to today's Supreme Court decision in the case of *West Virginia v. EPA*, which blocks the Environmental Protection Agency from regulating power plant emissions.

## Fact Sheets

\*June 27- [Enhancing Oncology Model](#) The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Service's (CMS) Innovation Center's new, voluntary Enhancing Oncology Model (EOM) is intended to transform care for cancer patients, reduce spending, and improve quality of care. It is designed to test how best to place cancer patients at the center of the care team that provides high-value, equitable, evidence-based care. EOM aims to improve care coordination, quality, and health outcomes for patients while also holding oncology practices accountable for total costs of care to make cancer care more affordable and accessible for beneficiaries and Medicare, which are key priorities described in the CMS Innovation Center's [strategy refresh](#).

\*June 27- [HHS Initiative to Strengthen Primary Health Care Seeking Public Comment](#) Access to high-quality primary health care has been shown to improve health equity and health outcomes, and is essential for addressing key priorities, including: the COVID-19 pandemic; mental and substance use disorder prevention and care; prevention and management of chronic conditions; addressing the impact of gender-based violence; and maternal and child health and well-being.

\*June 29- [Updated Guidance for Nursing Home Resident Health and Safety](#) To further support the implementation of the Long-Term Care (LTC) Facilities Requirements for Participation, which were published in 2016, CMS is issuing surveyor guidance which clarifies specific regulatory requirements and provides information on how compliance will be assessed. In addition, CMS is revising its guidance to State agencies, to strengthen the management of complaints and facility reported incidents. Today's updates to guidance are just one piece of CMS's ongoing effort to implement President Joe Biden's vision to protect seniors by improving the safety and quality of our nation's nursing homes, as outlined in a [fact sheet](#) released prior to his first State of the Union Address in March 2022.

## Blogs

\*June 30- [Your coverage options may change if you move](#) Moving can be an exciting time. As you get ready for your move, it's important to remember moving may impact your health insurance coverage options and savings. Don't forget to update your application to get the best plan and right amount of savings available to you and your household in your new area.

*For more information, please email [partnership@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:partnership@cms.hhs.gov)*