



July 24, 2015

Champions for Coverage:

CMS is celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Medicare and Medicaid this month! Millions of people have been positively impacted by CMS programs like Medicare, Medicaid, and the Marketplace. We hope you join in on this great celebration! This issue contains new updates as well as updated webinars.

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## NEW/UPDATED CONTENT AND WEBINARS

### Reminder: Consumer-Facing Outreach Materials from CMS

Check out these recently-released CMS outreach materials as you plan your outreach strategy for next year and continue participating in activities throughout the summer! Assisters interested in ordering CMS publications should visit the [CMS Product Ordering website](#).

Promotional Materials

- [Share Your Story Postcard](#)
- [Need Health Insurance 5x7 Card](#)
- [Get Coverage for 2016 Flyer](#)
- [Key Dates for the Health Insurance Marketplace Flyer](#)
- [Health Insurance Marketplace – List of Online Resources Flyer](#)

## Educational Materials

- [The Value of Health Insurance – 5 things to know \(Explanatory brochure\)](#)
- [The Health Insurance Marketplace – 5 things you can do to get ready to enroll \(Explanatory brochure\)](#)
- [Using your Marketplace coverage: find a doctor and prepare for your first visit \(HHS Blog on Preventive Care\)](#)

### Reminder: HHS Partnership Center Webinars

The HHS Partnership Center continues to host a series of webinars for faith and community leaders. All webinars are open to the public and include a question and answer session where you can ask HHS staff any questions you may have.

To participate in one of the webinars, please select your preferred topic from the list below and submit the necessary information.

#### New Graduates and Healthcare: Learn Your Options!

Graduating from college is an exciting step towards becoming independent. Yet many young adults don't think about one other important step – having health insurance. Health insurance is very affordable for many people, often less than \$100 a month, as a result of the Affordable Care Act. Many young adults are just one car accident or sports injury away from an expensive health care bill and potential bankruptcy. Join us for a free webinar to learn more about health insurance options for new graduates. A question and answer period will take place at the end of the webinar.

#### [July 29 at 2:00 pm EDT](#)

(1:00 pm CDT, Noon MDT, 11:00 am PDT)

#### [August 26 at 2:00 pm EDT](#)

(1:00 pm CDT, Noon MDT, 11:00 am PDT)

#### Got Coverage? Next Steps in Using Your Health Insurance

Many people now have health insurance but may not know how to use it. This webinar will discuss how to read your insurance card, how to find a doctor, what you need to know in making an appointment and what to do in case you have a health emergency. Key terms will be discussed as well as recommended health screenings. We will highlight the [Coverage to Care](#) materials on health insurance literacy during the webinar. We will also discuss how faith and other community-based organizations are using these tools to help those in their congregations and communities.

[August 25 at 3:00 pm EDT](#)

(2:00 pm CDT, 1:00 pm MDT, Noon PDT)

[September 22 at 3:00 pm ET](#)

(2:00 pm CDT, 1:00 pm MDT, Noon PDT)

## Special Enrollment Periods and Resources for the Uninsured

Individuals and families can enroll in the Health Insurance Marketplace during special enrollment periods if they experience certain circumstances. Special Enrollment Period circumstances include graduating from college and losing health insurance, getting married or divorced or having a baby, losing employer insurance or turning 26 and losing coverage on a parent's health plan. Join this webinar to learn more about special enrollment periods and how to enroll in the Health Insurance Marketplace. For those who are uninsured and don't qualify for the special enrollment period, learn what resources are available and when to enroll in the Health Insurance Marketplace.

[August 5 at 2:00 pm EDT](#)

(1:00 pm CT, Noon MT, 11:00 am PT)

[September 29 at 3:00 pm ET](#)

(2:00 pm CDT, 1:00 pm MDT, Noon PDT)

## NEWS AND UPDATES

### New: Preventive Services for Women

On Friday, July 10th, the Administration issued a final rule on coverage of certain recommended preventive services without cost-sharing. This rule maintains the existing accommodation for eligible religious nonprofits, but also finalizes an alternative pathway for those organizations to provide notice of their objection to covering contraceptive services and provides the same accommodations for certain types of for-profit entities. The rule also finalizes the preventive services interim final rules from 2010 with few changes, such as standards to ensure that when a recommendation or guideline for a preventive service is downgraded in the middle of a plan year, group health plans and insurers generally must continue to cover the preventive service without cost sharing through the end of the plan year, except in certain limited instances related to safety concerns.

- Click [here](#) for the press release.
- Click [here](#) for the fact sheet.

- Click [here](#) for the rule.

## New: Report to Congress: Actuarial Report on the Financial Outlook for Medicaid (2014)

Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Office of the Actuary released the 2014 Actuarial Report on the Financial Outlook for Medicaid report that details financial status of, enrollment in, and spending trends for Medicaid for the fiscal year ending September 30 of the preceding year. This report presents an analysis of past Medicaid trends and 10-year projections of expenditures and enrollment, including the impacts of the recent eligibility changes under the Affordable Care Act. Like other projections of future health care costs and coverage, these projections are subject to uncertainty.

To view the report posted, click here: <http://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Research/ActuarialStudies/MedicaidReport.html>

or here: <http://medicaid.gov/Medicaid-CHIP-Program-Information/By-Topics/Financing-and-Reimbursement/Actuarial-Report-on-Financial-Outlook-for-Medicaid.html>

## Reminder: Issuer Renewal and Discontinuation Notices Guidance

This week, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released guidance to support a smooth process for re-enrollment of consumers in 2016 individual market coverage. Based on the guidance being released, consumers whose individual market product is being discontinued by their issuer at the end of 2015 will generally receive notice of their coverage options closer to the start of the 2016 open enrollment period, when they will be able to take prompt action to shop for new coverage, rather than 90 days before their coverage ends.

In addition, the guidance will also announce that CMS does not anticipate making changes to the Federal standard notices of product discontinuation and renewal that were released in September 2014 for product discontinuations or renewals in connection with policy years ending on or before December 30, 2016.

Click here for additional information: <https://www.cms.gov/CCIIO/Resources/Regulations-and-Guidance/Downloads/Guidance-on-Notices-of-Product-Discontinuation-and-Renewal-for-the-2016-Coverage-Year.pdf>

## Reminder: County-Level Data Released

Last week, HHS released a new dataset that provides the total number of Qualified Health Plan (QHP) selections by county for the 37 states that use the HealthCare.gov platform\* for the

Marketplace Open Enrollment Period from November 15, 2014 through February 15, 2015, including the special enrollment period (SEP) through February 22, 2015.

The 8.8 million plan selections for these 37 states were tabulated by county according to the home address provided by each Marketplace applicant. Data for county metrics with 10 or fewer plan selections are not included due to privacy concerns. A total of 2,598 counties from the 37 states are listed in the table, which account for 8.8 million plan selections.

Note that the plan selections among counties within a state may not add up to state-level totals provided in the [summary enrollment report](#) that we featured in the June 10, 2015 assister newsletter. This is because county-level data does not appear for counties with 10 or fewer plan selections, therefore the dataset does not include all plan selections within each state.

- [Click here to read more](#), and for a link that will allow you to download the data set.

\*These states include those that are part of the Federally-facilitated Marketplace, State Partnership Marketplaces and supported State-based Marketplaces. The dataset does not include plan selections from the District of Columbia and 13 states that have State-based Marketplaces.

## SMALL BUSINESS HEALTH OPTIONS PROGRAM (SHOP)

### Reminder: SHOP Summer Webinars

SBA, CMS and Small Business Majority will host free Affordable Care Act 101 webinars so small business owners can learn the basics of the Affordable Care Act and how they can enroll in health insurance marketplaces. Join us every other Thursday at 2 PM ET.

- July 30: [Click to Register](#)
- August 6: [Click to Register](#)
- August 20: [Click to Register](#)

Join us for the Affordable Care Act 101 webinars in Spanish once a month on Tuesdays at 4 PM ET.

- August 11: [Click to Register](#)

## SOCIAL MEDIA

Reminder: Medicare and Medicaid 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Count Down

On July 30, 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed into law legislation that established the Medicare and Medicaid programs. For 50 years, these 2 programs have been protecting the health and well-being of millions of American families, saving lives, and improving the economic security of our nation.

CMS is taking part in numerous activities over the next month to celebrate these two important programs, including an active social media push. On June 11th, CMS started our 50-day countdown to July 30th, the day Medicare and Medicaid programs were signed into law. Each day we'll tweet an important fact about Medicare and/or Medicaid.

We are encouraging our partners to join in and share these great facts! You can go to <https://twitter.com/CMSGov> and retweet each day's tweet on the 50 facts in 50 days.

We want to hear from you! Whether you retweet or write your own, let us know how you are sharing the 50th Anniversary message on social media by emailing [Partnership@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Partnership@cms.hhs.gov).

#### [HHS BLOG POSTS ABOUT THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT AND HEALTHCARE.GOV](#)

Blog post from Friday, July 17

Title: 5 questions about dental coverage in the Marketplace

Link: <https://www.healthcare.gov/blog/5-questions-about-marketplace-dental-coverage/>

Blog post from Friday, July 10

Title: Get health coverage for your small business employees anytime with the SHOP Marketplace

Link: <https://www.healthcare.gov/blog/get-health-coverage-for-your-small-business-employees-anytime/>

*-CMS Office of Communications, Partner Relations Group*