



CMS Snapshot

March 1-7, 2019

Delivered to you by the Partner Relations Group

News Releases:

*March 1- [Empowering Patients and Unleashing Innovation: eMedicare for Today and Future Generations](#). Blog by Seema Verma, Administrator, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. “Public service is a privilege. My primary mission as the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is to deliver on President Trump’s commitment to strengthen and modernize Medicare for the millions of Americans who depend on us every day. To this end, at CMS we are constantly looking for new ways to better serve our beneficiaries. That’s why we started the eMedicare initiative.”

*March 1- [Spring into Action- Practice Prevention](#). Blog on Medicare.gov. “Spring is a welcome reminder of new beginnings. Longer hours of daylight, blooming flowers, and warmer weather all point to a new season, and a new reason, to practice preventive care. Preventive services are valuable to your wellbeing, because they can help you keep from getting sick and find health problems early, when treatment works best. Taking advantage of them is a crucial step in maintaining a healthy lifestyle, and every little bit helps.”

*March 1- [5 Ways to help prevent colon cancer](#); Blog on Medicare.gov. “Colorectal cancer is one of the leading cancer-related killers. It’s the third most common cancer in the U.S. and the second leading cause of death from cancer. Colorectal cancer affects all racial and ethnic groups and is most often found in people 50 and older. Colon cancer is generally treatable when caught early enough. The best way to prevent colorectal cancer is to get screened regularly starting at age 50. There are often no signs or symptoms of colorectal cancer—that’s why it’s so important to get screened. You don’t have to do it alone—Medicare covers many preventive services including colorectal cancer screenings to help you detect and prevent colorectal cancer, and you’ll pay nothing for most of them.”

*March 4- [Become an informed Medicare consumer](#). Blog on Medicare.gov. “Each day, you make important choices about your finances, health, privacy, and more. During [National Consumer Protection Week \(NCPW\)](#), March 3–9, 2019, non-profit organizations and government agencies can help you take advantage of your rights and make better-informed choices.”

*March 4- [Speech: Remarks by Administrator Seema Verma at the Federation of American Hospitals 2019 Public Policy Conference.](#) “I am honored to be with you. As the head of an agency that oversees the care of 130 million Americans, I can tell you that a lot of what I learned about health care, I learned at a hospital. I am coming up on my two-year anniversary as Administrator, so I thought I would reflect back for a moment on the accomplishments of the last two years.”

*March 5- [CMS Improving Nursing Home Compare in April 2019.](#) The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced updates coming next month to Nursing Home Compare and the Five-Star Quality Rating System to strengthen this tool for consumers to compare quality between nursing homes. The April 2019 updates to Nursing Home Compare are part of a broad range of updates that have been under development for the last several years.

*March 5- [Protecting the Health and Safety of all Americans.](#) Blog by Seema Verma, Administrator, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. “Despite stringent safeguards, alarming stories continue to be reported about people, including some of our most vulnerable individuals, who have experienced harm in healthcare settings that is devastating to these patients and their families. These include cases of sexual, physical, or mental abuse; neglect and medical mistakes resulting in death; and serious and life-threatening injuries or impairments. Seeking medical or long-term care is a critical decision many people will face at some point in their lives. Whether the care is for personal reasons or for a loved one, quality and safety are factors that cannot be compromised.”

*March 6- [CMS Administrator Seema Verma Statement on the Resignation of FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb.](#) "Scott has been both a great leader as FDA Commissioner and a wonderful friend. I am honored and privileged to have had the opportunity to work alongside him and see all that he has accomplished for the American people to spur medical innovation, increase access to generic drugs, and advance many other public health priorities. I join the entire HHS family in thanking him for his service".

*March 6- [CMS seeks recommendation that allow Americans to purchase health insurance across state lines.](#) The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a request for information (RFI) today that solicits recommendations on how to eliminate regulatory, operational and financial barriers to enhance issuers’ ability to sell health insurance coverage across state lines. This announcement builds on President Trump’s October 12, 2017 Executive Order, “Promoting Healthcare Choice and Competition Across the United States,” which intends to provide Americans relief from rising premiums by increasing consumer choice and competition.

Upcoming Events of Interest:

*March 14: **CMS National Training Program Learning Series Webinar:** Medicare for People with End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD). This webinar takes place Thursday, March 14, 2019 1pm-2:30pmET. This webinar will: Provides an overview of ESRD; Explain Medicare eligibility and enrollment rules; Discuss what Medicare covers; Identify health plan options for people with ESRD. To register for the webinar visit:

[CMSnationaltrainingprogram.cms.gov/moodle/course/view.php?id=47](https://www.cmsnationaltrainingprogram.cms.gov/moodle/course/view.php?id=47).

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