



CMS Snapshot

March 8-14, 2019

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Blog Entries

*March 14- [Good Ideas Must Be Evaluated](#). Blog by Seema Verma, Administrator, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. “Two years ago today I was sworn in as CMS Administrator. One of my first actions when I began this journey was to send a letter to the nation’s governors in which I committed to ushering in a new era for the federal and state Medicaid partnership, granting states more freedom to design innovative local solutions. We have followed through on that promise by supporting efforts like waiving decades-old restrictions on addiction treatment services, allowing states to link working age beneficiaries to new opportunities through work and community engagement programs, and rolling back overly prescriptive federal regulations and policies.”

New Fact Sheets:

*March 8-[DMEPOS Competitive Bidding Round 2021 Fact Sheet](#). The DMEPOS Competitive Bidding Program has been an essential tool to help Medicare set market-based payment rates for DMEPOS items, save money for beneficiaries and taxpayers, and limit fraud and abuse in the Medicare Program. The program has saved billions of dollars since implementation, while ensuring access to quality items and services.

*March 11- [CMS & CDC Offer a specialist, online Infection Prevention and Control Training for Nursing Home Staff in the Long-Term Care Setting Fact Sheet](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced a free on-line training course in infection prevention and control for nursing home staff in the long-term care setting developed with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The course information covers core activities for an infection prevention and control program, with a detailed explanation of recommended practices to prevent pathogen transmission and reduce healthcare-associated infections and antibiotic resistance in nursing homes.

News Releases:

*March 14- [CMS Updates Drug Dashboards with Prescription Drug Pricing and Spending Data](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) updated its Drug Spending Dashboards with data for 2017. This Administration's version of the drug dashboards, first released in May of last year, adds information on the manufacturers that are responsible for price increases and includes pricing and spending data for thousands more drugs across Medicare Parts B and D and Medicaid. The dashboards focus on average spending per dosage unit for prescription drugs paid under Medicare Parts B and D and Medicaid, and track the change in average spending per dosage unit over time. Information is presented in an interactive web-based tool, so researchers and consumers can easily sort the data to identify trends.

*March 14- [CMS Strengthens Monitoring and Evaluation Expectations for Medicaid 115 Demonstrations](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released new state tools and guidance that provide standard monitoring metrics and recommended research methods geared specifically for section 1115 demonstrations that test innovative approaches to Medicaid eligibility and coverage policies. The Trump Administration has ushered in a new era in Medicaid by restoring balance to the federal and state partnership through more flexibility to address local needs and accountability for program results. These tools and guidance reflect CMS' commitment to discern whether reform demonstrations are achieving expected outcomes while testing and evaluating new approaches to improving outcomes for Medicaid beneficiaries.

Upcoming Events of Interest:

**Tentative* March 28- Open Door Forum: Ambulance. Stay tuned for call-in details.

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