



CMS Snapshot

March 22-28, 2019

Delivered to you by the Partner Relations Group

Blog Entries

*March 22- [Need help with your Medicare costs?](#) Blog by Medicare.gov. If you have Medicare and you're facing challenges with paying for health care, you may qualify for programs that can help you save money on medical and drug costs.

*March 26- [Know your diabetes risk- take this quick test!](#) Blog by Medicare.gov. "One in three Americans is at risk for developing type 2 diabetes, a serious disease that can lead to complications like kidney disease, blindness, and amputations. But type 2 diabetes doesn't have to be permanent— you can delay or even prevent it with healthy lifestyle changes. Many people with diabetes don't know that they have it, but Medicare covers screening tests so you can find out if you do."

*March 28- [Using opioids safely.](#) Blog by Medicare.gov. "Doctors may prescribe opioids, a class of drugs used to treat pain, after surgery or an injury. Although opioids can be an important part of treatment, they have serious risks like addiction, abuse, and overdose, especially if used continuously."

*March 28- [New Part D Policies Address Opioid Epidemic.](#) Blog by CMS Principal Deputy Administrator for Operations, Kimberly Brandt. "Early last year, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) published a [roadmap](#) outlining our efforts to address the national opioid epidemic. The roadmap details our three-pronged approach, including prevention of new cases of opioid use disorder (OUD), expanding access to treatment for patients who have already developed OUD, and using data from across the country to better target our prevention and treatment activities."

News Releases

*March 25- [CMS Issues the 2019 Exchange Open Enrollment Period Final Report.](#) The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released the *Health Insurance Exchanges 2019 Open Enrollment Report*. With the Trump Administration's focus on making healthcare more

affordable, the report confirms another successful open enrollment period coinciding with a stabilization of premiums after years of substantial increases.

*March 26- [CMS Proposes Updates to Coverage Policy for Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement \(TAVR\)](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) proposed to update its national coverage policy for Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement (TAVR), a procedure for a condition known as “aortic stenosis” in which the heart valve that propels blood from the heart to the rest of the body becomes narrowed.

*March 26- [HHS Deputy Secretary Eric Hargan Statement on Announcement of Presidential Task Force on Protecting Native American Children in the Indian Health Service System](#). HHS Deputy Secretary Eric Hargan issued a statement on President Trump’s order to establish a Presidential Task Force on Protecting Native American Children in the Indian Health System.

Fact Sheets:

*March 25- [Health Insurance Exchanges 2019 Open Enrollment Report](#). The Health Insurance Exchanges 2019 Open Enrollment Report summarizes health plan selections made on the individual Exchanges during the 2019 Open Enrollment Period (2019 OEP) for the 39 states that use the HealthCare.gov eligibility and enrollment platform, as well as for the 12 State-Based Exchanges (SBEs) that use their own eligibility and enrollment platforms.

*March 27- [CMS Artificial Intelligence Health Outcomes Challenge](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Artificial Intelligence Health Outcomes Challenge is a three-stage competition to accelerate artificial intelligence solutions to better predict health outcomes such as unplanned hospital and skilled nursing facility admissions and adverse events for potential use by the Innovation Center in testing innovative payment and service delivery models under the authority of section 1115A of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1315a). CMS is partnering with the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) and the Laura and John Arnold Foundation to award up to \$1.65 million to selected participants during the three stages of the Challenge.

Upcoming Events of Interest:

*April 2- Long Term Care Services & Support Open Door Forum. 2pm-3pmET. To participate dial 1-800-837-1935 Conference ID 4591816

*April 3- Home Health, Hospice & DME Open Door Forum. 2pm-3pmET. To participate dial 1-800-837-1935 Conference ID 7983386

*April 5- First Friday Provider Meeting.

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