



CMS Snapshot

March 29- April 4, 2019

Delivered to you by the Partner Relations Group

Podcasts:

*March 29- [Episode 2: 2019 CMS Quality Conference](#). This episode highlights some of the key perspectives from participants at the 2019 CMS Quality Conference in Baltimore, Maryland.

News Releases

*April 1- [CMS finalizes Medicare Advantage and Part D payment and policy updates to maximize competition and coverage](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) finalized updates that will take significant steps in continuing the Trump administration's efforts to increase competition among Medicare Advantage and Part D plans so patients get higher quality care at lower costs. These changes will increase plan choices and benefits, and include important actions to address the opioid crisis.

*April 2- [Secretary Azar Praises Service of Inspector General Dan Levinson](#). "Dan Levinson has been a valued friend and colleague since our time together beginning at HHS in the 2000s, and all of HHS is grateful for his more than three decades of federal service. Under Dan's leadership, the HHS Office of Inspector General (OIG) has done tireless, invaluable work to protect program beneficiaries and taxpayer funds, improve the management and integrity of HHS programs, and respond to emerging challenges such as the ongoing opioid crisis."

Fact Sheets

*April 1- [Claim Rejection and Denials for Providers on the Preclusion List to begin on April 1, 2019](#). Effective April 1, 2019, Medicare Advantage (MA) and Part D plans will begin rejecting or denying claims submitted for payment for Part D drugs and MA services and items prescribed or furnished by an individual or entity on the Preclusion List. This effort supports CMS' commitment to safeguarding patients and taxpayer funding

Upcoming Events and Items of Interest:

*April 3- [Patients over Paperwork April newsletter](#). In CMS's ninth issue of the Patients over Paperwork newsletter, we're updating you on our ongoing work to reduce administrative burden and improve the customer experience for hospitals.

*April 11- [National Training Program Learning Series Webinar: Coordination of Benefits for People with Medicare](#). This webinar: Explains the rules that determine the payers' responsibility when people have Medicare and other types of coverage; Discusses situations when Medicare pays first and when Medicare pays second; Identifies resources for more information.

*Social Security Administration (SSA) Scam Alert- submitted by Lydia Chevere, Lydia.Chevere@ssa.gov. In recent months, allegations of people impersonating SSA employees over the phone has increase drastically. We encourage you to inform your members and extended networks not to engage with such callers, and to report any suspicious calls to Social Security's Office of the Inspector General by calling 1-800-269-0271 or [submitting a report on the OIG website](#). We also urge you to read and share [Social Security Matters blog](#), which provides more information on the nature of these fraudulent calls, as well as instructions on how to report such activity. To hear what this scam sounds like, check out our [videos](#).

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