



CMS Snapshot

April 18-25, 2019

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Blog Entries:

*April 18- [3 questions to ask your doctor](#). It's important to understand what services are covered by your insurance plan and what your costs may be before your doctor's appointment. Here are some questions to ask.

*April 22- [Celebrate Earth Day- Medicare Style](#). More than 190 countries celebrate Earth Day on April 22—a day for encouraging awareness and action to help protect our environment. How can you make your voice heard this year? Let Medicare help! Sign up for a [MyMedicare.gov](#) account and take advantage of Medicare's electronic resources to help you manage your health care and get rid of unnecessary paper.

News Releases

*April 19- [HHS Announces Next Steps in Advancing Interoperability of Health Information](#). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) [issued for public comment](#) draft 2 of the Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement (TEFCA) that will support the full, network-to-network exchange of health information nationally. HHS also released a notice of funding opportunity to engage a non-profit, industry-based organization that will advance nationwide interoperability.

*April 19- [HHS Extends Comment Period for Proposed Rules to Improve the Interoperability of Electric Health Information](#). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced it is extending the public comment period by 30 days for two proposed regulations aimed at promoting the interoperability of health information technology (health IT) and enabling patients to electronically access their health information. The new deadline for the submission of comments – June 3, 2019 – will allow additional time for the public to review the proposed regulations.

*April 22- [HHS To Deliver Value-Based Transformation in Primary Care](#). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Alex Azar and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Administrator Seema Verma are announcing the CMS Primary Cares Initiative, a

new set of payment models that will transform primary care to deliver better value for patients throughout the healthcare system.

*April 22- [HHS News: HHS To Deliver Value-Based Transformation in Primary Care](#). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Alex Azar and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Administrator Seema Verma are announcing the CMS Primary Care Initiative, a new set of payment models that will transform primary care to deliver better value for patients throughout the healthcare system.

*April 22- [Medicare Trustees Report shows Hospital Insurance Trust Fund will deplete in 7 years](#). The Medicare Board of Trustees released their annual report for Medicare's two separate trust funds -- the Hospital Insurance (HI) Trust Fund, which funds Medicare Part A, and the Supplementary Medical Insurance (SMI) Trust Fund, which funds Medicare Part B and D.

*April 22- [Secretary Azar Statement on Medicare Trustees Report](#). "Today's seniors and future generations need certainty that Medicare will be there to support them now and in the future. This year's Trustees Report provides a sobering reminder that we have much work to do to make good on that goal."

*April 23- [Speech: Remarks by Administrator Seema Verma at the CMS National Forum on State Relief and Empowerment Waiver](#). "It's truly a pleasure to welcome you to the CMS National Forum on State Relief and Empowerment Waivers. It was just six months ago that President Trump stood where I'm standing today to announce the Administration's new direction to lower prescription drug prices, making it very clear that in health care, it is not business as usual on his watch."

*April 23- [CMS Advances Agenda to Re-think Rural Health and Unleash Medical Innovation](#). The Trump Administration proposed changes that build on the progress made over the last two years and further the agency's priority to transform the healthcare delivery system through competition and innovation while providing patients with better value and results.

*April 24- [HHS Secretary Azar Statement on Measles Outbreaks and the Importance of Vaccines](#). "The United States is seeing a resurgence of measles, a disease that had once been effectively eliminated from our country. And today, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has confirmed that ongoing measles outbreaks in 22 states has led to the highest number of cases reported nationwide since the disease was declared eliminated in this country in 2000."

*April 25- [Speech: Remarks by Administrator Seema Verma at the National Association of Accountable Care Organizations \(NAACOS\) Spring 2019 Conference](#). "Good morning and thank you for the opportunity to speak today. I want to start by thanking Clif Gaus for inviting me to be here – and for his partnership."

Fact Sheets

*April 19- [Proposed Fiscal Year 2020 Payment and Policy Changes for Medicare Skilled Nursing Facilities \(CMS-1718-P\)](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a proposed rule [CMS-1718-P] for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 that updates the Medicare payment rates and the quality programs for skilled nursing facilities (SNFs).

*April 19- [Fiscal Year 2020 Hospice Payment Rate Update Proposed Rule \(CMS-1714-P\)](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a proposed rule (CMS-1714-P) that demonstrates continued commitment to strengthening Medicare by better aligning the hospice payment rates with the costs of providing care and increasing transparency so patients can make more informed choices.

*April 22- [Primary Care First: Foster Independence, Reward Outcomes](#). Primary Care First is a set of voluntary five-year payment model options that reward value and quality by offering innovative payment model structures to support delivery of advanced primary care.

*April 23- [Fiscal Year \(FY\) 2020 Medicare Hospital Inpatient Prospective Payment System \(IPPS\) and Long Term Acute Care Hospital \(LTCH\) Prospective Payment System Proposed Rule and Request for Information](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) proposed a rule that focuses the agency's efforts on a singular objective: transforming the healthcare delivery system through competition and innovation to provide patients with better value and results.

*April 24- [HHS Fact Sheet: Combating the Opioid Crisis](#). The opioid crisis is the most daunting and complex public health challenge of our time. However, under the President's leadership, in just two short years, the nation has made real progress—progress that is saving lives every day.

Upcoming Events and Items of Interest:

*Medicare “What’s Covered” App Available in English and Spanish. Medicare’s first and only official mobile application – “What’s covered” is now available in English and Spanish. More people with Medicare and their caregivers can get direct access on their favorite mobile device to some of the most-used content on [Medicare.gov](#). The What’s Covered app is available for free in both Google Play and the Apple App Store. The app is available in Google Play at: <https://protect2.fireeye.com/url?k=0a4b96ec-561e9f3c-0a4ba7d3-0cc47a6a52de-12aa2129e2c1e7ae&u=https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=gov.medicare.coverage>, and is available in the Apple App Store at: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/whats-covered/id1444143600?mt=8>.

*April 16- National Health Care Decisions Day. National Health Care Decisions Day educates the public and providers about the importance of Advance Care Planning (ACP). Did you know that ACP services can be billed to the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule?

For More Information:

- [ACP](#) Fact Sheet

- [Billing the Physician Fee Schedule for ACP Services](#) Frequently Asked Questions
- [ACP as an Optional Element of an Annual Wellness Visit](#) MLN Matters Article
- [National Health Care Decisions Day - Opens in a new window](#) website

*April 23- Open Door Forum: Skilled Nursing Facilities/Long Term Care, 2pm-3pmET. If you wish to participate, dial 800-837-1935 Conference ID 6593324. The proposed agenda is as follows:

- Announcement our May SNF QRP training event-
 - REGISTRATION OPEN – SNF QRP Provider In-Person Training Event, May 7 and 8, 2019
 - The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will be hosting a 2-day Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Quality Reporting Program (QRP) in-person 'Train the Trainer' event for providers on May 7 and 8, 2019, in Kansas City, MO. See the [SNF Quality Reporting Training](#) webpage for details.
- PBJ Update
 - Policy Questions should be sent to NHStaffing@cms.hhs.gov
 - Technical Issues/Questions should be sent to NursingHomePBJTechIssues@cms.hhs.gov
 - PBJ Website: <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/NursingHomeQualityInits/Staffing-Data-Submission-PBJ.html> .

*April 27- [National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day](#). In 2016, 6.2 million Americans misused controlled prescription drugs. We know that the majority of them obtained those prescription drugs from family and friends, often from a home medicine cabinet. Click [here](#) to locate a year-round authorized collector in your area.

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