



## CMS Snapshot

**April 26-May 2, 2019**

Delivered to you by the Partner Relations Group

### Blog Entries:

\*April 26- [Actively Addressing Social Determinants of health will Help Us Achieve Health Equity](#). “Each April marks National Minority Health Month, providing the opportunity to acknowledge the progress made in reducing disparities, as well as a chance to reflect on what more needs to be done to achieve health equity.”

\*May 1- [Taking action and providing states option to minimize economic burden created by the ACA](#). “Ever since the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act’s (PPACA) main requirements were implemented in 2014, individual health insurance markets across the country have been struggling. Premiums have doubled and even tripled in some states. Insurers began abandoning state and regional markets leaving large portions of the country with only a single insurer, and insurers are increasingly focused on offering narrow provider networks to contain premium growth.”

\*May 1- [Help strengthen your community](#). “The strongest communities are those that encourage participation from all members, especially you! Older adults play a key role in the vitality of neighborhoods, networks, and the lives of others. May is Older Americans Month, and it’s the perfect time to engage and support all the ways that older adults can make a difference.”

\*May 1- [May is Osteoporosis Month- stay bone strong](#). “Every year, more Americans are diagnosed with osteoporosis, a disease that causes bones to weaken and become more likely to break. You may not know that you have this “silent” disease until your bones are so weak that a sudden strain, bump, or fall causes your wrist to break or your hip to fracture.”

\*May 1- [Feel the pressure- blood pressure that is](#). “About 1 in 3 U.S. adults have high blood pressure—and you could be one of them. If you haven’t checked your blood pressure lately, now’s the perfect time. High blood pressure usually has no signs or symptoms, but it can lead to a higher risk of heart disease, stroke, and kidney failure.”

### News Releases

\*April 29- [HHS and the American Society of Nephrology Award KidneyX Redesign Dialysis Phase 1 Winners](#). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of the Chief Technology Officer and the American Society of Nephrology have selected 15 winning teams for Phase 1 of the [KidneyX Redesign Dialysis](#) prize competition.

\*April 29- [HHS Secretary Azar Statement on National Infant Immunization Week](#). “This week is National Infant Immunization Week, which is an opportunity to celebrate lifesaving vaccines that protect our children.”

\*April 29- [HHS Officials Highlight Safety and Effectiveness of Vaccines and National Infant Immunization Week](#). Statements from HHS Secretary Azar, CDC Director Robert Redfield, FDA Acting Commissioner Ned Sharpless, Assistant Secretary of Health Brett Giroir, Surgeon General Jerome Adams, NIAID Director Anthony Fauci.

\*April 30- [Secretary Azar Attends Health Ministerial Meeting in Lima, Peru in Response to Health Impacts of Forced Displacement in the Region](#). On Tuesday, April 30, Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar attended a health ministerial meeting in Lima, Peru entitled, “Strengthening Regional Coordination in Response to the Impacts of Forced Displacement.” This regional conference, attended by Peru’s Prime Minister Salvador del Solar, provided a forum for countries receiving displaced populations to continue high-level talks initiated in Washington, D.C. in November 2018, with the objective of coordinating efforts to standardize healthcare practices throughout the region.

\*April 30- [CMS Proposes to further strengthen oversight of Accrediting Organizations](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) today announced a proposed rule that would assure continued quality and safety in healthcare facilities by requiring greater transparency when ownership changes occur at Accrediting Organizations (AOs).

\*May 1- [Secretary Azar Visits Peruvian Hospital and Meets with Venezuelan Healthcare Professionals](#). Wednesday, May 1, Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar visited Hospital Maria Auxiliadora in Lima, Peru, with Minister of Health Zulema Tomás to learn about the hospital and the unique challenges they face treating migrants and refugees from Venezuela.

\*May 2- [Speech: Remarks by Administrator Seema Verma at the Medical Device Manufacturers Association Annual Meeting](#). “Earlier this year, we at CMS set forth 16 strategic initiatives, one of which is Fostering Innovation. This spans across the agency -- reducing burden through Patients over Paperwork, regulatory reform, and enhancing access to new transformative technologies. Today, I’m pleased to discuss our plan for Fostering Innovation as we focus on overhauling and modernizing CMS’s policies for new technologies.”

\*May 2- [HHS Announces Final Conscience Rule Protecting Health Care Entities and Individuals](#). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office for Civil Rights (OCR)

announced today the issuance of the final conscience rule that protects individuals and health care entities from discrimination on the basis of their exercise of conscience in HHS-funded programs. Just as OCR enforces other civil rights, the rule implements full and robust enforcement of approximately 25 provisions passed by Congress protecting longstanding conscience rights in healthcare.

\*May 2- [CMS outlines comprehensive strategy to foster innovation for transformative medical technologies](#). The Medical Device Manufacturers Association (MDMA) Annual Meeting, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Administrator Seema Verma for the first time walked through the agency's comprehensive strategy to improve patients' access to emerging technologies.

\*May 2- [CMS Finalizes Rule to Protect Medicaid Provider Payments](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released the Medicaid Provider Reassignment Regulation final rule removing a state's ability to divert portions of Medicaid provider payments to third parties outside of the scope of what the statute allows.

### Upcoming Events and Items of Interest:

\*May 7- CMS National Training Program Monthly Update Webinar. 2:30pm-3:30pmET. This webinar will feature presentations on: \*The CMS Opioid Prescribing Mapping Tool; \*Nursing Home Compare and the 5-star Quality Ratings; \*CMS: "Beyond the Policy" Podcast. Registration is required to attend. Visit our learning management system at <https://cmsnationaltrainingprogram.cms.gov/moodle/course/view.php?id=52> and log in to enroll. Upon registration, you'll receive an email and appointment.

\*May 8- The next quarterly Caregiver workgroup meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 8 from 9am-11amET in Washington, DC. Potential topics for the agenda include: John A. Hartford Foundation-Grant to Address Unmet Family Caregiving Needs in Diverse Older Communities; CFPB Resources for Caregivers; USDA & DOJ Elder Justice Partnership; National Alliance for Caregiving Patient-Focused Drug Development & Caregiving and NIH Oral Health for Caregivers. Please register to attend this meeting at: [CMS Caregiver Workgroup Mtg.](#)

\*Federal Grant notice- **HHS/Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)**: Cooperative agreement. *Integrated Care for Kids (InCK)*. The InCK Model will assist states in addressing priority health concerns for children, including opioid and other substance use, and the effects of opioid use on families. **Deadline is June 10.** [Learn more.](#)

\*Federal Grant notice- **HHS/CMS Office of Minority Health (CMS OMH)**: Grant. *Minority Research Grant Program*. Eligibility is limited to Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic Serving Institutions, Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions, and Tribal Colleges and Universities. **Deadline is June 17.** [Learn more.](#)

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