



CMS Snapshot

May 2-9, 2019

Delivered to you by the Partner Relations Group

Blog Entries:

*May 2- [Using your Marketplace insurance when you're not sick](#). "Did you know you can use Marketplace health insurance benefits even when you're not sick? Here's how you can take advantage of your health insurance benefits all the time."

*May 6- [The Intersection of Hurricane Response and Opioid Use Disorder](#). "Hurricane season is just around the corner. If you are thinking about ways to prepare for the next hurricane, take a moment to consider this: approximately 2.1 million people have an opioid use disorder according to the [National Survey on Drug Use and Health](#) and over 47,000 of them died by overdose in 2017 according to a study by the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)."

*May 7- [CMS Streamlines Medicaid Review Process and Reduces Approval Times so States Can More Effectively Manage Their Programs](#). "At the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), we are making great progress to transform Medicaid, which CMS's largest program serving [72.5 million](#) beneficiaries."

*May 7- [3 tips for people in the Qualified Medicare Beneficiary Program](#). "If you're among the 7.5 million people in the [Qualified Medicare Beneficiary \(QMB\) Program](#), Medicare providers aren't allowed to bill you for services and items Medicare covers, including deductibles, coinsurance, and copayments. If a provider asks you to pay, that's against the law."

*May 7- [Protect yourself from hepatitis](#). "Did you know that hepatitis kills close to 1.4 million people every year? Hepatitis is an inflammation of the liver caused by a virus, resulting in acute and chronic liver disease."

*May 8- [Putting our Rethinking Rural Health Strategy into Action](#). "Approximately 60 million Americans or roughly 1 in 5 live in rural areas, with nearly every state having a rural county. The Trump Administration recognizes the significant obstacles faced by patients and providers in rural areas."

News Releases

*May 6- [Tennessee diagnostic medical imaging services company pays \\$3,000,000 to settle breach exposing over 300,000 patients' protected health information](#). "Touchstone Medical Imaging ("Touchstone") has agreed to pay \$3,000,000 to the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and to adopt a corrective action plan to settle potential violations of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Security and Breach Notification Rules."

*May 8- [Remarks by Administrator Seema Verma at the National Rural Health Association Annual Conference](#). "I would like to thank the National Rural Health Association and all of you...for your hard work and commitment... to improving healthcare in rural America. Our Administration shares that commitment and our Rethinking Rural Health Initiative is a key strategic focus at CMS."

*May 8- [HHS Finalizes Rule Requiring Manufacturers Disclose Drug Prices in TV Ads to Increase Drug Pricing Transparency](#). "Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar announced a final rule from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) that will require direct-to-consumer television advertisements for prescription pharmaceuticals covered by Medicare or Medicaid to include the list price – the Wholesale Acquisition Cost – if that price is equal to or greater than \$35 for a month's supply or the usual course of therapy."

Fact Sheets

*May 8- [CMS Drug Pricing Transparency Fact Sheet](#). "In May 2018, President Trump and Secretary Azar introduced the [American Patients First blueprint - PDF](#) to bring down prescription drug prices. Less than a year later, we are publishing the first final rule to implement the vision laid out in the blueprint."

Upcoming Events and Items of Interest:

*May 9- Webinar- CMS National Training Program May Learning Series Webinar: CMS's Actions to Address the Opioid Epidemic 1pm-2:30pmET. This webinar: Reviews facts about the opioid epidemic; Describes CMS's actions to address the opioid epidemic; Explains opioid-related services and prescription drug coverage under Medicare, Medicaid and the Marketplace; Discusses opioid resources. To register for the webinar, visit [CMSnationaltrainingprogram.cms.gov/moodle/course/view.php?id=53](https://cmsnationaltrainingprogram.cms.gov/moodle/course/view.php?id=53).

*May 14- [Special Open Door Forum: Medicare Documentation Requirement Lookup Service](#) 2pm-3pmET. The goals of the Documentation Requirement Lookup Service prototype are to reduce provider burden, reduce improper payments and appeals, and improve "provider to payer" information exchange. The prototype will be made accessible to pilot participants and will allow providers to be able to discover the following at the time of service and within their EHR or practice management system: 1. If Medicare FFS requires prior authorization for a given

item or service; and 2. Documentation requirements for Oxygen and Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) Devices. For more information and to access the slide presentation for the SODF, please visit our website: go.cms.gov/MedicareRequirementsLookup. We look forward to your participation. To participate dial 1-(800)-837-1935 Conference ID: 4457108.

*May 15- [Open Door Forum: Home Health, Hospice & DME](#) 2pm-3pmET. The proposed agenda is as follows- FY 2020 Hospice Proposed Rule announcement; Rule:

<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2019-04-25/pdf/2019-08143.pdf>; Hospice Detail page about the rule with wage index and provider level files:

[https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/Hospice/Hospice-Regulations-and-Notices-Items/CMS-1714-](https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/Hospice/Hospice-Regulations-and-Notices-Items/CMS-1714-P.html?DLPage=1&DLEntries=10&DLSort=3&DLSortDir=descending)

[P.html?DLPage=1&DLEntries=10&DLSort=3&DLSortDir=descending](https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/Hospice/Hospice-Regulations-and-Notices-Items/CMS-1714-P.html?DLPage=1&DLEntries=10&DLSort=3&DLSortDir=descending); FDMS where providers can comment on the rule: <https://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=CMS-2019-0068> HQRP and

Hospice Compare; HQRP webpage: <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/Hospice-Quality-Reporting/Spotlight.html>; Hospice Compare:

<https://www.medicare.gov/hospiceCompare/>; CAHPS Hospice Announcements; CAHPS

Hospice; Survey website: www.hospicecahpsurvey.org; For technical assistance with CAHPS

Hospice Survey Project Team: hospicecahpsurvey@HCQIS.org or 1-844-472-4621. To

communicate with CMS staff about implementation issues: hospicesurvey@cms.hhs.gov;

HHCAHPS Survey reminders; HHCAHPS website: <https://homehealthcahps.org>; HHCAHPS

information and assistance: HHCAHPS@rti.org CMS contacts for HHCAHPS:

homehealthcahps@cms.hhs.gov; Hospice Usage of NOE via EDI eNews letter about the Hospice underpayment issue – Hold Hospice Adjustments to Avoid Underpayments

<https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Outreach/FFSProvPartProg/Downloads/2019-04-11-eNews.pdf>; CR 11272, Home Health (HH) Patient-Driven Groupings Model (PDGM) -

Additional Manual Instructions update; Updates and Announcements from the Home Health Quality Reporting Program; Reporting Update; Guidance Update; OASIS Quarterly Q&A:

<https://qtso.cms.gov/providers/home-health-agency-hha-providers/reference-manuals>; User

Manual/Data Sets Update; OASIS Memorandum: [https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-](https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/HomeHealthQualityInits/HHQIOASISUserManual.html)

[Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-](https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/HomeHealthQualityInits/HHQIOASISUserManual.html)

[Instruments/HomeHealthQualityInits/HHQIOASISUserManual.html](https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/HomeHealthQualityInits/HHQIOASISUserManual.html); Training Update APU

Webinar: [https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-](https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/HomeHealthQualityInits/Home-Health-Quality-Reporting-Training.html)

[Instruments/HomeHealthQualityInits/Home-Health-Quality-Reporting-Training.html](https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/HomeHealthQualityInits/Home-Health-Quality-Reporting-Training.html) Review

Choice Demonstration for Home Health Service: <https://go.cms.gov/homehealthRCD>; DME Prior Authorization Updates; DME Webpage: [https://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-](https://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Monitoring-Programs/Medicare-FFS-Compliance-Programs/DMEPOS/Prior-Authorization-Process-for-Certain-Durable-Medical-Equipment-Prosthetic-Orthotics-Supplies-Items.html)

[and-Systems/Monitoring-Programs/Medicare-FFS-Compliance-Programs/DMEPOS/Prior-](https://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Monitoring-Programs/Medicare-FFS-Compliance-Programs/DMEPOS/Prior-Authorization-Process-for-Certain-Durable-Medical-Equipment-Prosthetic-Orthotics-Supplies-Items.html)

[Authorization-Process-for-Certain-Durable-Medical-Equipment-Prosthetic-Orthotics-Supplies-](https://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Monitoring-Programs/Medicare-FFS-Compliance-Programs/DMEPOS/Prior-Authorization-Process-for-Certain-Durable-Medical-Equipment-Prosthetic-Orthotics-Supplies-Items.html)

[Items.html](https://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Monitoring-Programs/Medicare-FFS-Compliance-Programs/DMEPOS/Prior-Authorization-Process-for-Certain-Durable-Medical-Equipment-Prosthetic-Orthotics-Supplies-Items.html); Update on the Round 2021 DMEPOS Competitive Bidding Program see the:

[Competitive Bidding Implementation Contractor](#) website and [CMS Round 2021 Fact Sheet](#). If

you wish to participate, dial 1-800-837-1935. Conference ID: 7073239.

*May 16- [Webinar: National Medicare Education Program \(NMEP\)](#) 1pm-3pmET. Please join us for a webinar to discuss some of the on-going Medicare models, plans and initiatives. We look forward to the dialogue! Registered attendees will receive the agenda in advance of the meeting.

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