



CMS Snapshot

May 31-June 6, 2019

Delivered to you by the Partner Relations Group

Blog Releases

*June 6- [Competition as the Engine for Lowering Healthcare Costs](#). History tells us that when monopolies form prices rise, innovation sputters, and consumers suffer. It is curious why advocates for single-payer, government-run solutions ignore this reality, as if healthcare is somehow exempt from economic forces. Turning our healthcare payment system into a government-run monopoly is a recipe for high costs and long wait times.

News Releases

*June 3- [HHS Secretary Azar Statement on Personnel Promotion and Departure](#). The Department of Health and Human Services announced today that HHS Secretary Azar's Chief of Staff, Peter Urbanowicz, will be leaving the department in June, with Deputy Chief of Staff Brian Harrison promoted to the Chief of Staff position.

*June 5- [CMS Statement on Quality of Care in America's Nursing Home Facilities](#). Improving safety and quality in America's nursing homes is one of CMS' top priorities. CMS welcomes the recent attention on nursing home quality of care that has amplified the important national dialogue. Administrator Verma began working on this issue at the beginning of her tenure in 2017.

*June 5- [As Measles Cases Surpass 1,000, Secretary Azar Reinforces Commitment to Vaccination](#). On June 5, 2019, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported that the number of measles cases nationwide so far in 2019 was 1,001. Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar released the following statement.

*June 5- [Statement from the Department of Health and Human Services](#). In September 2018, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) terminated a contract between Advanced Bioscience Resources, Inc. and the Food and Drug Administration that provided human fetal tissue from elective abortions to develop testing protocols. The Department was not sufficiently assured that contract included the appropriate protections applicable to fetal tissue research or met all other procurement requirements. As a result, HHS also initiated a comprehensive

review of all HHS research involving human fetal tissue from elective abortions to ensure consistency with statutes and regulations governing such research, and to ensure the adequacy of procedures and oversight of this research in light of the serious regulatory, moral, and ethical considerations involved.

*June 6- [CMS Seeks Public Input on Patients over Paperwork Initiative to Further Reduce Administrative, Regulatory Burden to Lower Healthcare Costs](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a Request for Information (RFI) seeking new ideas from the public on how to continue the progress of the Patients over Paperwork initiative. Since launching in fall 2017, Patients over Paperwork has streamlined regulations to significantly cut the “red tape” that weighs down our healthcare system and takes clinicians away from their primary mission—caring for patients.

Upcoming Events and Items of Interest:

*June 12- [Conversation on Maternal Health Care in Rural Communities](#) at 8:30amET. Register [here](#) for virtual participation. This interactive event hosted by CMS, HRSA, the National Rural Health Association, and others will provide an overview of the state of maternal healthcare in rural communities, with a focus on access to maternal health services before, during, and after pregnancy. The event will be held in Washington, DC, and virtual attendance will be available [via webcast](#).

*[June is Men’s Health Month](#). According to the CDC, boys and men in the United States, on average, die 5.6 years earlier than women and die at higher rates from nine of the top 10 leading causes of death. Visit the HHS Office of Minority Health [website](#) for the most [up-to-date information](#) on men’s health and for resources that can be shared to encourage the men in your community to take control of their health, and for families to teach young boys healthy habits throughout childhood.

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