



CMS Snapshot

June 14-20, 2019

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Blog Releases

*June 19- [Coming Together to Confront Sickle Cell Disease](#). Hope has never been higher for people living with sickle cell disease (SCD) and their families and supporters. With the possibility of a widely available cure within reach, a pipeline of new treatments on the horizon and several initiatives underway to better utilize current tools in the battle against the painful and deadly blood disorder, the opportunity before us in the coming months and years is profound and historic.

News Releases

*June 17- [CMS proposes to update e-prescribing standards to reduce provider burden and expedite access to needed medications](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a proposed rule that would improve patients' access to needed medications by updating the prior authorization process for Medicare Part D, the program that provides coverage for prescription drugs that beneficiaries pick up at a pharmacy counter. The prior authorization process requires that providers supply additional clinical information to verify that the medication can be covered under the Medicare Part D benefit.

*June 20- [CMS Issues Renewed Guidance in Effort to Ensure Medicaid Program Integrity, Signifies Agency's Commitment to Safeguard Health and Welfare of Medicaid enrollees](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued guidance to state Medicaid agencies that outlines the necessary assurances that states should make to ensure that program resources are reserved for those who meet eligibility requirements. This guidance follows a series of steps that CMS has taken since 2017, including its [Medicaid Program Integrity strategy](#) released last year, in an effort to reduce Medicaid improper payments across states to protect taxpayer dollars while enhancing the financial and programmatic integrity of the Medicaid program.

Upcoming Events and Items of Interest:

*[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