



CMS Snapshot

June 21-27, 2019

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Blog Releases

*June 27- [This summer, put your health & well-being first](#). Summer is here! Here's how you can be more proactive with your health this season.

News Releases

*June 21- [CMS Finalizes Updates to Coverage Policy for Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement \(TAVR\)](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) finalized its decision to update the national coverage policy for Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement (TAVR), a procedure for a condition known as "aortic stenosis" in which the heart valve that propels blood from the heart to the rest of the body becomes narrowed.

*June 24- [Statement from CMS Administrator Seema Verma on President Trump Signing an Executive Order on Improving Price and Quality Transparency in American Healthcare to Put Patients First](#). "Today's announcement exemplifies President Trump's commitment to ensuring Americans have the right to know the price and quality of their healthcare," said CMS Administrator Seema Verma. "Since day one, this Administration has made great strides in increasing transparency to foster competition in our healthcare system to keep care affordable, and empowering patients to make informed healthcare decisions."

*June 24- [HHS Secretary Statement on Executive Order to Put Patients in Control](#). On Monday, HHS Secretary Alex Azar released a statement on President Trump's executive order on price and quality transparency in healthcare.

*June 25- [CMS Commits \\$50Million to Assist States with Substances Use Disorder Treatment and Recovery](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced a [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) that provides State Medicaid agencies with information to apply for planning grants that will aid in the treatment and recovery of substance use disorders (SUDs), including opioid use disorder (OUD). Fighting the opioid epidemic is one of CMS's top priorities, and the planning grants are an important step in that effort.

*June 25- [New Law Strengthens U.S. Efforts to Prepare, Respond and Recover from Disasters](#). The Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness and Advancing Innovation Act of 2019 (PAHPAIA), signed into law last night by the president, strengthens U.S. programs that are critical to protecting Americans from modern, evolving health security threats.

*June 26- [New Frequently Asked Questions on HIPAA and Health Plans Support Care Coordination and Continuity of Care](#). The Office for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services issued a frequently asked question (FAQ) document that clarifies how the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Privacy Rule permits health plans to share protected health information (PHI) in a manner that furthers the HHS Secretary's goal of promoting coordinated care.

*June 26- [CMS Approves Louisiana State Plan Amendment for Supplemental Rebate Agreements Using a Modified Subscription Model for Hepatitis C Therapies in Medicaid](#). The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approved Louisiana's Medicaid State Plan Amendment (SPA) authorizing the state to negotiate supplemental rebate agreements from prescription drug manufacturers. The SPA permits the state to negotiate supplemental rebate agreements using a new "modified subscription" model that initially focuses on antiviral agents for hepatitis C and that promotes eliminating the hepatitis C virus statewide.

*June 27- [OCR Provides Critical Technical Assistance to Ensure that Individuals with Disabilities Have Full and Equal Access to Health Care Services](#). On March 26, 2019, OCR's Eastern and Caribbean Region received a call from an advocate for the deaf community, alleging that the Caribbean Medical Center (CMC), a 36-bed, short term, acute care and surgical facility in Fajardo, Puerto Rico, failed to provide appropriate sign language interpretive services to a deaf individual who sought an evaluation for surgical care, which resulted in amputation surgery.

*June 27- [Trump Administration Awards \\$1 Million in Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Grants to Counties to Strengthen Efforts to End the HIV Epidemic in the United States](#). The Trump Administration, through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), awarded approximately \$1 million in Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program grants to 10 metropolitan areas that are Part A jurisdictions to provide technical assistance to enhance efforts to end the HIV epidemic.

Upcoming Events and Items of Interest:

*The next [Home Health, Hospice & DME Open Door Forum](#) is scheduled for Tuesday, July 9, 2019 from 2pm-3pmET. The proposed agenda is as follows: *DMEPOS Update- [Competitive Bidding Implementation Contractor](#) website and the [Round 2021](#) DMEPOS Competitive Bidding Program Homepage; *DMEPOS Prior Authorization Program for Pressure Reducing Support Surfaces; *Reminder: Public Beta testing of the HH PDGM Grouper software; *Updates and Announcements from the Home Health Quality Reporting Program: CY2019 NPRM Rule Update, Reporting Updates- July 2019 Home Health Compare Refresh coming up! *PPR measure added

to HHC October 2019- Guidance Update OASIS Quarterly Q&A:
<https://qtso.cms.gov/providers/home-health-agency-hha-providers/reference-manuals>,
Training Updates <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/HomeHealthQualityInits/Home-Health-Quality-Reporting-Training.html>, APU
Webinar slides available, Video Tutorials Available to Assist with Coding Specific Section GG
Items, Section GG web-based Training Course; *Updates to HQRP and Hospice Compare- Links
to our webpages are: HQRP webpage: <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/Hospice-Quality-Reporting/Spotlight.html>, Hospice QRP
Reconsideration Webpage: <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/Hospice-Quality-Reporting/Reconsideration-Requests.html>, Hospice
Compare: <https://www.medicare.gov/hospiceCompare/>, Hospice QRP Related Help Desks:
<https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/Hospice-Quality-Reporting/Help-Desks.html>. This agenda is subject to change. If you wish to participate
dial 1-800-837-1935 & Reference Conference ID: 8354358.

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