



CMS Snapshot

June 28-July 11, 2019

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News Releases

*June 28- [Trump Administration Approves Two New State Medicaid Demonstrations to Treat Substance Use Disorders and Combat National Opioid Epidemic](#). The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced that Minnesota and Nebraska have become the 23rd and 24th states who have received approval under the Trump Administration for innovative demonstration projects that increase access to treatment for opioid use disorder (OUD) and other substance use disorders (SUD).

*July 1- [HHS Secretary Statement on Congress's Restoration of Funding to Support Humanitarian Care for Children](#). Upon President Trump's signing of a supplemental emergency appropriations bill to support the humanitarian work HHS does to care for unaccompanied alien children, HHS Secretary Alex Azar released the following statement. "We are pleased that Congress finally responded, in a bipartisan way, to President Trump's call for more funding to address the huge influx of unaccompanied alien children arriving at our southern border."

*July 2- [CMS Expands Coverage of Ambulatory Blood Pressure Monitoring \(ABPM\)](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) finalized its national coverage policy for Ambulatory Blood Pressure Monitoring (ABPM). ABPM is a non-invasive diagnostic test that uses a device to track blood pressure over 24-hour cycles, allowing a doctor to assess a patient's blood pressure during routine daily living, instead of when they are sitting nervously on an examination table.

*July 5- [HHS Secretary Azar Statement on Continuing Leadership Expansion](#). The Department of Health and Human Services announced that Secretary Alex Azar will be elevating Paul Mango, currently Chief of Staff at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, to serve as the Department's Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy, a newly created position to oversee policy planning and coordination for the Department.

*July 9- [HHS Announces Quality Summit to Streamline and Improve Quality Programs across Government](#). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Deputy Secretary Eric Hargan announced the formation of the [Quality Summit \(QS\)](#), which will bring together key

industry stakeholders and government leaders to discuss how current quality programs administered by HHS can be further evaluated, adapted, and ultimately streamlined to deliver a value-based care model focused on improving outcomes for American patients. On June 24, President Trump signed the Improving Price and Quality Transparency in American Healthcare to Put Patients First Executive Order, directing federal agencies to develop a Health Quality Roadmap that aims to align and improve reporting on data and quality measures across federal health programs.

*July 10- [HHS Launches President Trump's 'Advancing American Kidney Health' Initiative](#).

President Donald Trump signed an Executive Order to launch *Advancing American Kidney Health*, a bold new initiative to improve the lives of Americans suffering from kidney disease, expand options for American patients, and reduce healthcare costs. The initiative provides specific solutions to deliver on three goals: fewer patients developing kidney failure, fewer Americans receiving dialysis in dialysis centers, and more kidneys available for transplant.

*July 10- [HHS To Transform Care Delivery for Patients with Chronic Kidney Disease](#). delivering on President Trump's Advancing American Kidney Health Executive Order, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Alex Azar and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Administrator Seema Verma announced five new CMS Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation payment models that aim to transform kidney care so that patients with chronic kidney disease have access to high quality, coordinated care.

*July 11- [CMS Launches Comprehensive Effort to Strengthen Monitoring of Medicaid Beneficiary Access for Patients While Relieving Administrative Burden for States](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a notice of proposed rulemaking to rescind outdated 2015 requirements that impose complex administrative burdens on States without meaningful impact to beneficiaries. This proposed rule is designed to help streamline federal oversight of access to care requirements that protect Medicaid beneficiaries.

*July 11- [Kidney Patients, Care Partners Invited to Submit Ideas and Innovations for National Prize Competition](#). The [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services](#) (HHS), [American Society of Nephrology](#) (ASN) and [National Kidney Foundation](#) (NKF) announced a new prize competition that seeks to identify ideas and solutions patients and care partners have developed to improve their daily life with kidney disease. [The KidneyX Patient Innovator Challenge, funded by the National Kidney Foundation \(NKF\)](#) invites individuals, communities, businesses, institutions, and not-for-profit organizations, among others, to submit ideas on how to improve therapeutic options and quality of life for people living with kidney disease.

Fact Sheets:

*July 9- [HHS Quality Summit \(QS\) Fact Sheet](#). The Department of Health and Human Services is committed to ensuring that American patients receive the highest value healthcare, which

Secretary Azar has identified as a key priority for HHS, by taking actionable steps to improve price and quality transparency under President Trump's leadership.

*July 10- [Proposed Radiation Oncology \(RO\) Model](#). The proposed Radiation Oncology (RO) Model is an innovative payment model that would, if finalized, improve the quality of care for cancer patients receiving radiotherapy treatment, and reduce provider burden by moving toward a simplified and predictable payment system.

*July 10- [Kidney Care First \(KFC\) and Comprehensive Kidney Care Contracting \(CKCC\) Model](#). The Kidney Care First (KCF) and Comprehensive Kidney Care Contracting (CKCC) Graduated, Professional, and Global Models will build upon the existing Comprehensive End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Care (CEC) Model structure – in which dialysis facilities, nephrologists, and other health care providers form ESRD-focused accountable care organizations to manage care for beneficiaries with ESRD – by adding strong financial incentives for health care providers to manage the care for Medicare beneficiaries with chronic kidney disease (CKD) stages 4 and 5 and ESRD, to delay the onset of dialysis and to incentivize kidney transplantation. The design of these models likewise draws from the recently announced Primary Care First and Direct Contracting models.

*July 10- [Proposed End-Stage Renal Disease Treatment Choices \(ETC\) Mandatory Model](#). CMS is proposing the End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Treatment Choices (ETC) Model to encourage greater use of home dialysis and kidney transplants for Medicare beneficiaries with ESRD, while reducing Medicare expenditures and preserving or enhancing the quality of care furnished to beneficiaries with ESRD.

Upcoming Events and Items of Interest:

*The CMS Medicare-Medicaid Coordination Office (MMCO) is pleased to announce the following three training opportunities:

- July 25, 2019 from 12:30pm-2pmET- Webinar: Culturally Competent Direct Care: Meeting the LTSS Needs of Dually Eligible Beneficiaries.

This webinar will discuss strategies for providing direct care services with cultural sensitivity, as well as training elements for direct care workers to achieve cultural competence. Speakers will share strategies for effectively identifying and meeting beneficiaries' LTSS needs, in both institutional and community-based settings, while respecting their diverse cultural preferences. Finally, a direct care worker, along with a beneficiary, will share their firsthand experiences and recommendations on providing culturally competent direct care. This webinar is intended for a wide range of stakeholders, including frontline workers, LTSS providers and provider organizations (nursing facilities, adult daycare programs, assisted living facilities, home health care, and community-based agencies), and staff at Medicare-Medicaid Plans, Dual Eligible Special Needs Plans, managed LTSS plans, and consumer organizations. Registration Link: https://www.resourcesforintegratedcare.com/CulturalCompetency/2019_CC_Webinar/Direct_Care_Workforce

- July 30, 2019 11:30am-1pmET - Webinar: Diagnosing and Treating Dementia – Current Best Practices.

This interactive webinar will describe best practices and guidelines for diagnosing and assessing dementia among older adults who are dually eligible and will provide an overview of current evidence-based treatments. Speakers, including a caregiver, will discuss firsthand experiences and lessons learned, including the impact of different interventions and approaches on older adults with dementia and their caregivers. This webinar is intended for providers, health care professionals and front-line staff of Medicare Advantage plans, Medicare-Medicaid Plans, Dual Eligible Special Needs Plans (D-SNPs) and PACE Organizations, as well as other stakeholders interested in improving their ability to provide dementia capable care. Registration Link:

https://www.resourcesforintegratedcare.com/GeriatricCompetentCare/2019_GCC_Webinar/Diagnosing_and_Treating_Dementia

- July 31, 2019 2-2:30pmET- Disability-Competent Care Conversation on Access with ADA National Network. This event will focus on healthcare facility accessibility, including physical and communication barriers that may impede participants with disabilities from receiving care. Representatives from ADANN will answer your ADA and other accessibility questions. We encourage attendees to submit questions for ADANN ahead of time using any of the three options below:

1. Send an email with your questions to RIC@Lewin.com. Your personal and/or organizational information will not be shared during the live event or after.
2. Use direct message on Twitter to send your questions to @Integrate_care.
3. Complete the registration for the event and include your question in the designated textbox.

Registration Link:

https://www.resourcesforintegratedcare.com/DisabilityCompetentCare/2019_DCC_Webinar_Series/Conversation_on_Access

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