



# CMS Snapshot

## August 9-15, 2019

Delivered to you by the Partner Relations Group

### News Releases

\*August 12- [Secretary Azar Statement on Department Leadership Changes](#). The Department of Health and Human Services announced today that John O'Brien will soon be departing as Senior Advisor to the Secretary for Drug Pricing Reform and John Brooks, currently Principal Deputy Director of the Center for Medicare, will expand his current responsibilities to serve as Senior Advisor for Drug Pricing Reform.

\*August 12- [CMS Releases Reports Showing Declining Enrollment for the Unsubsidized Population](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released two reports, the Early 2019 Effectuated Enrollment Report and the Trends in Subsidized and Unsubsidized Enrollment Report. These reports provide information on the stability of the individual health insurance market during the 2018 plan year as well as offering preliminary insights into the market for 2019.

\*August 15- [CMS is Bringing Health Plan Quality Ratings to All Exchanges for the First Time](#). For the first time, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will require the display of the five-star Quality Rating System (or star ratings) available nationwide for health plans offered on the Health Insurance Exchanges beginning with the 2020 Open Enrollment Period. This step builds on the Trump Administration's overall commitment to increasing transparency and empowering consumers to make informed healthcare decisions for themselves and their families.

### Fact Sheets

\*August 12- [Early 2019 Effectuated Enrollment Snapshot](#). This report provides effectuated enrollment, premium, and advance payments of the premium tax credit (APTC) data, for the Federally-facilitated and State-based Exchanges ("the Exchanges") for February 2019 and for the 2018 plan year.

\*August 15- [Health Insurance Exchange Quality Ratings System 101](#). Consistent with section 1311(c)(3) of the Affordable Care Act, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)

established a rating system for plans offered through an Exchange on the basis of quality and price. The purpose of the Quality Rating System (or star ratings) is to: (1) help consumers make informed healthcare decisions, (2) facilitate oversight of health plans, and (3) provide actionable information to health plans to improve the quality of services they provide.

### Upcoming Events and Items of Interest:

#### **\*Back-to-School and School-Based Outreach on Medicaid and CHIP**

Before and during the school year, there are a variety of ways to let parents and caregivers know that their children and teens may be eligible for free or low-cost health insurance through Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). With health insurance, they can get the immunizations, check-ups, eye exams, dental visits and other care they may need to fully participate in classroom, after-school and summer activities. Schools are great partners to help reach and enroll families with children who are eligible for Medicaid and CHIP.

The Insure Kids Now Campaign has outreach tools and materials to support school-based outreach efforts. Below are outreach materials specifically tailored for Back-to-School and other school-based outreach. You can learn about how others have used these and other campaign materials in our eNewsletters, webinars and videos.

The School-Based Outreach and Enrollment Toolkit can be found [here](#). Tips and ideas, palmcards, posters, social media messages, sample newsletter articles and Public Service Announcements (PSAs) scripts can be found [here](#).

#### **\*2019 Medicare National Training Program Workshops**

[Registration](#) for the 2019 CMS National Training Program (NTP) workshops is open. The cities and dates for the workshops are listed below. You're invited to attend at the location and days of your choice to meet your schedule and learning needs.

- Arlington, TX: August 20-22
- Providence, RI: September 10-12

The workshops in Arlington and Providence will be 3 full days. Agendas vary slightly in each city and will be available on the registration site.

Please note, the CMS Kansas City Regional Office will be hosting similar training locally (tentatively in Kansas, Missouri, and Iowa). Dates and locations will be announced shortly.

What we'll cover:

- High-level and specific information on key aspects of the Medicare Program
- Information on Opioids

- A "Current Topics" session to raise awareness of program changes and innovations
- An overview of the new Plan Finder on Medicare.gov
- Scenario-based learning
- Please note, these workshops don't include information on billing

NTP training workbooks will be provided onsite for Day 1 and Day 3. Additional meeting materials will be available for download on the registration website prior to the workshops. If you would like access, please download and/or print. Free Wi-Fi will be available in the meeting room.

[Register](#) for a 2019 National Training Program Workshop

NOTE: Registration requests will be considered on a first-come, first-serve basis until each meeting reaches capacity. The number of attendees from the same organization may be limited.

**\*Save the Date: National Medicare Education Program (NMEP) Meeting**

- *September 16, 2019, 10:30 – 12:30 pm EST*
- *In-Person Meeting in the CMS Washington, D.C. Office*
- *Registration and Agenda will be coming soon*

For more information please email [partnership@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:partnership@cms.hhs.gov)