



CMS Snapshot

August 16-22, 2019

Delivered to you by the Partner Relations Group

News Releases

*August 19- [Remarks by Administrator Seema Verma at the SHIEC Annual Conference](#). “On this day, 55 years ago the satellite Syncom 3 was launched into orbit. This satellite enabled Americans in the United States, for the very first time, to watch the 1964 Summer Olympics in Tokyo in the comfort of their own homes. Since then, information technology has had amazing advancements and we can now send information across the globe in less than a few seconds, except of course if that information is a patient’s healthcare record.”

*August 19- [CMS Announces Upcoming Enhancement of Overall Hospital Quality Star Ratings](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is announcing plans to update the quality measurement methodology of the Overall Hospital Quality Star Ratings located on CMS’ popular [Hospital Compare](#) website in 2021. In the interim, CMS will next refresh the Star Ratings using the current methodology in early 2020, ensuring patients have timely access to the most up-to-date hospital quality information while a new methodology is being finalized. Today’s announcement represents a major step forward in delivering on President Trump’s recent Executive Order on Improving Price and Quality Transparency in American Healthcare to Put Patients First, which seeks “to enhance the ability of patients to choose the healthcare that is best for them.”

*August 20- [HHS Awards \\$107 Million to Support Health Center Quality Improvement](#). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced nearly \$107 million in Quality Improvement Awards to 1,273 health centers across nearly all U.S. states, territories and the District of Columbia. Funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), health centers will use these awards to improve the quality, efficiency, and value of the health care they provide.

*August 20- [SAMHSA’s Annual Mental Health, Substance Use Data Provide Roadmap for Future Action](#). The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration released the 2018 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH). The annual survey is the nation’s primary resource for data on mental health and substance use among Americans.

*August 21- [HHS Funds an Additional Year of Ebola Vaccine Manufacturing](#). As part of the international response to the Ebola virus outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and to meet domestic biodefense goals, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) will support manufacturing of an investigational Ebola vaccine, V920, from Merck & Co. Inc. of Kenilworth, New Jersey, known outside the U.S. and Canada as MSD.

*August 21- [HHS and DHS Announce New Rule to Implement the Flores Settlement Agreement](#). Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex Azar and Acting Secretary of Homeland Security Kevin K. McAleenan announced a final rule that finalizes regulations implementing the relevant and substantive terms of the *Flores* Settlement Agreement (FSA). Importantly, the rule will allow for termination of the FSA, and allow DHS and HHS to respond to significant statutory and operational changes that have occurred since the FSA has been in place, including dramatic increases in the numbers of unaccompanied children and family units crossing into the United States.

Upcoming Events and Items of Interest:

[CMS Open Door Forums](#)

[Hospital Quality Open Door Forum](#): The proposed agenda for the next Hospital Quality Open Door Forum is scheduled for Tuesday, August 27, 2019 from 2:00pm - 3:00pmET is as follows: Announcements & Updates: * CY 2020 Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS) and Ambulatory Surgery Center (ASC) Payment System Proposed Rule; Beneficiary & Family Centered Care – Quality Improvement Organization (BFCC-QIOs) transition updates. If you wish to participate, dial 1-888-455-1397 Conference ID: 9375124. Please see the full participation announcement in the Downloads section. Thank you for your continued interest in the CMS Open Door Forums.

***[Ambulance Open Door Forum](#)**: The proposed agenda for The next Ambulance Open Door Forum scheduled for Wednesday, August 28, 2019, from 2:00pm-3:00pmET is as follows: Announcements & Updates- Changes to the Ambulance Physician Certification Statement Requirement; Ground Ambulance Data Collection System Proposed Rule; ET3 Refresher: <https://innovation.cms.gov/Files/x/et3-infographic.pdf>; Informing ambulance providers and suppliers on Medicaid Opportunities in the ET3 Model: <https://www.medicaid.gov/federal-policy-guidance/downloads/cib080819-3.pdf>. If you wish to participate, dial 1-888-455-1397 Conference ID: 6609831. Please see the full participation announcement in the Downloads section. Thank you for your continued interest in the CMS Open Door Forums.

***New Medicare Plan Finder Webinar**

September 5, 2019 2pm-3pmET. The Medicare Plan Finder on [Medicare.gov](https://www.medicare.gov) helps people with Medicare compare and choose coverage options, including Medicare health and drug plans. This webinar will preview and walk through Plan Finder updates that are planned for Open Enrollment 2019. To register for this webinar, visit:

http://goto.webcasts.com/starthere.jsp?ei=1258784&tp_key=53eabd72e7.

Upon registration, you'll get an email and have the option to add the event to your calendar.

***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.

- Providence, RI: September 10-12

The workshops in Providence will be 3 full days. Agendas 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

Save the Date: Open Door Forum (ODF)

***[CMS Open Door Forums](#):**

To sign up to receive ODF agendas and Special ODF announcements, please sign up here: https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USCMS/subscriber/new?topic_id=USCMS_493

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and suppliers on Medicaid Opportunities in the ET3 Model:

<https://www.medicaid.gov/federal-policy-guidance/downloads/cib080819-3.pdf>. If you wish to participate, dial 1-888-455-1397 Conference ID: 6609831. Please see the full participation announcement in the Downloads section. Thank you for your continued interest in the CMS Open Door Forums.

- [Special Open Door Forum: Open Payments Program Expansion](#): The CMS Open Payments team will host a Special Open Door Forum on the Substance Use-Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment for Patients and Communities Act ([SUPPORT Act](#)) impact on the Open Payments program on Thursday, August 29, 2019, 2:00pm-3:00pm ET. Open Payments is a national disclosure program that promotes a more transparent and accountable health care system by publishing the financial relationships between applicable manufacturers and group purchasing organizations (GPOs) and health care providers (physicians and teaching hospitals). Special Open Door Participation Instructions: Participant Dial-In Number: 1-888-455-1397, Conference Passcode: 6609831
- [Open Door Forum: New Medicare Card](#): The proposed agenda for the next New Medicare Card Open Door Forum scheduled for Wednesday, September 11, 2019, from 2:00pm-3:00pm ET is as follows: New Medicare Card Project Update. If you wish to participate, dial 1-888-455-1397 Conference Passcode: 4676500
- [Special Open Door Forum: Hospice Outcomes & Patient Evaluation \(HOPE\) Tool---Status Update](#). This Special Open Door Forum (ODF) is to allow hospices and other interested parties to ask questions on the development of a Hospice Outcomes & Patient Evaluation (HOPE) Tool on Thursday, September 12, 2019, 2:00pm-3:00pm ET. This SODF is part of a series of regular SODF's CMS plans to host on this patient assessment tool and other key topics related to the Hospice Quality Reporting Program. The purpose of a HOPE Tool is to develop outcome and other quality measures that relate to the care needs of people through the dying process and to ensure the safety and comfort of individuals enrolled in hospice institutions nationwide. The SODF will provide a status update and welcomes your questions. Special Open Door Participation Instructions: Participant Dial-In Number: 1-888-455-1397, Conference Passcode: 4676500
- [Open Door Forum: Long-Term Services and Support](#): The next Long-Term Services and Support Open Door Forum scheduled for Tuesday, September 17, 2019, from 2:00pm-3:00pm ET. If you wish to participate, dial 1-888-455-1397 Conference Passcode: TBD
- [Open Door Forum: Home Health, Hospice and DME](#): The next Home Health, Hospice and DME Open Door Forum scheduled for Wednesday, September 18, 2019, from 2:00pm-3:00pm ET. If you wish to participate, dial 1-888-455-1397 Conference Passcode: TBD

- [Open Door Forum: Skilled Nursing Facilities/Long Term Care](#): The next Skilled Nursing Facilities/Long Term Care Open Door Forum scheduled for Thursday, September 19, 2019, from 2:00pm-3:00pm ET. If you wish to participate, dial 1-888-455-1397
Conference Passcode: TBD
- [Open Door Forum: Employers](#): The next Employers Open Door Forum scheduled for Tuesday, September 24, 2019, from 2:00pm-3:00pm ET. If you wish to participate, dial 1-888-455-1397
Conference Passcode: TBD