



CMS Snapshot

September 27-October 3, 2019

Delivered to you by the Partner Relations Group in the Office of Communications

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, September 27 through 2pm Thursday, October 3

News Releases

*September 30- [Trump Administration Announces Opportunity for States to Participate in Wellness Program Demonstration Project](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), released an informational bulletin announcing the opportunity for 10 states to apply to participate in a wellness program demonstration project for their individual market. This bulletin gives states and issuers new flexibility to design and offer wellness programs for individual market health plans that provide people with direct incentives to make healthier choices and achieve better health outcomes.

*September 30- [HHS Issues Supplemental Grant Awards to Title X Recipients](#). Today, the Office of Population Affairs (OPA) announced \$33.6 million in fiscal year 2019 funding awards to 50 current Title X grantees in order to supplement their family planning services. The funds awarded were relinquished by grantees that left the Title X program rather than comply with statutory and regulatory requirements prohibiting federal funding where abortion is a method of family planning. HHS expects that the supplemental awards will enable grantees to come close to—if not exceed—prior Title X patient coverage.

*October 1- [HHS Funds Development of Two Filovirus Vaccines for Biodefense, Public Health](#). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) will support the simultaneous development of individual vaccine candidates against Marburg virus and Sudan ebolavirus infections. Both diseases are caused by potentially deadly filoviruses, the same family of viruses that includes the Ebola virus currently affecting communities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

*October 2- [HHS Awards \\$13.5 Million to Accelerate State and Local Planning Efforts for Ending the HIV Epidemic: A Plan for America](#). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), has awarded \$13.5 million to conduct state and local planning and kick off community involvement for the proposed federal initiative, [Ending the HIV Epidemic: A Plan for America](#), which seeks to reduce

new HIV infections in America by 90% by 2030. The funding ([Notice of Funding Opportunity PS19-1906](#)) includes two parts.

*October 2- [Dental Practice Pays \\$10,000 to Settle Social Media Disclosures of Patients' Protected Health Information](#). Elite Dental Associates, Dallas ("Elite") has agreed to pay \$10,000 to the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and to adopt a corrective action plan to settle potential violations of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Privacy Rule. Elite is a privately-owned dental practice located in Dallas, Texas, providing general, implant, and cosmetic dentistry.

Blog

*September 27- [How Health Reimbursement Agreements \(HRAs\) Help Employers Expand Coverage Options for their Employees](#). Health coverage is a key benefit employers offer workers in order to attract and retain the best and the brightest. Yet employers face numerous complex regulatory rules and administrative burdens in providing health coverage to their employees. Most big employers have entire departments devoted to understanding the rules and administering health coverage. But, many smaller business owners don't have that luxury. They alone must take on the task of navigating how to provide health coverage to their employees. Employers big and small are looking for more effective ways to offer health coverage to their employees and, they are looking for ways to expand the choices of coverage options.

*October 1- [It's time for your yearly mammogram!](#) Over 200,000 women are diagnosed with breast cancer each year, making it one of the most common cancers in women. Getting your yearly mammogram is the best way to find breast cancer early.

*October 1- [Get ready for Medicare's Open Enrollment](#). Medicare's Open Enrollment Period is just two weeks away. From October 15 to December 7, you can enroll in health and drug plans for 2020. Use these 5 quick tips to get ready for Medicare's Open Enrollment.

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