



CMS Snapshot

October 3-10, 2019

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, October 3 through 2pm Thursday, October 10

News Releases

*October 3- [HHS Secretary Azar Statement on Executive Order to Protect and Improve Medicare](#). Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar issued the following statement regarding the [Executive Order signed by President Trump](#) today directing HHS to take a number of actions to improve the Medicare program. [Statement from CMS Administrator Seema Verma on President Trump Signing an Executive Order on Protecting and Improving Medicare for Our Nation's Senior](#). "As head of the Medicare program, I am proud of President Trump's historic action to deliver on his enduring commitment and promise to strengthen and protect this sacred program for America's seniors who have paid into the program their entire lives," said CMS Administrator Seema Verma.

*October 4- [With End of New York Outbreak, United States Keeps Measles Elimination Status](#). The United States has maintained its measles elimination status of nearly 20 years. The New York State Department of Health yesterday declared the end of the state's nearly year-long outbreak that had put the U.S. at risk of losing its measles elimination status.

*October 7- [Trump Administration Empowers Nursing Home Patients, Residents, Families, and Caregivers by Enhancing Transparency about Abuse and Neglect](#). The Trump Administration and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced a major enhancement of the information available to nursing home residents, families, and caregivers on the Agency's [Nursing Home Compare website](#). Later this month, CMS will – for the first time – display a consumer alert icon next to nursing homes that have been cited for incidents of abuse, neglect, or exploitation. By making this information accessible and understandable, CMS is empowering consumers to make the right decisions for themselves and their loved ones.

*October 8- [HHS Explores Lung-on-a-Chip Technology in Developing Chemical Injury Treatments](#). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) will support tests of organ-on-a-chip technology to determine how it can be used to understand injuries caused by

inhaled chlorine gas, a potential national security threat, and to develop treatments for those injuries.

*October 9- [HHS Proposes Stark Law and Anti-Kickback Statute Reforms to Support Value-Based and Coordinated Care](#). The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced proposed changes to modernize and clarify the regulations that interpret the Physician Self-Referral Law (the “Stark Law”) and the Federal Anti-Kickback Statute.

*October 10- [HHS Announces Guide for Appropriate Tapering or Discontinuation of Long-Term Opioid Use](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services published a new [Guide for Clinicians on the Appropriate Dosage Reduction or Discontinuation of Long-Term Opioid Analgesics](#). Individual patients, as well as the health of the public, benefit when opioids are prescribed only when the benefit of using opioids outweighs the risks. But once a patient is on opioids for a prolonged duration, any abrupt change in the patient’s regimen may put the patient at risk of harm and should include a thorough, deliberative case review and discussion with the patient. The HHS Guide provides advice to clinicians who are contemplating or initiating a change in opioid dosage.

Fact Sheet

*October 9- [Modernizing and Clarifying the Physician Self-Referral Regulations Proposed Rule](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a proposed rule to modernize and clarify the regulations that interpret the Medicare physician self-referral law (often called the “Stark Law”), which has not been significantly updated since it was enacted in 1989.

Blogs

*October 3- [Less than one month ‘til 2020 Marketplace Open Enrollment!](#) You have less than one month until you can enroll in a 2020 Marketplace health insurance plan. Here are important dates to remember and some things you can do to get ready.

*October 7- [Take action against the flu](#). Flu season is here, which means it’s time to take action, and protect yourself and loved ones by getting a free [flu shot](#). Flu viruses change each year, so it’s important to get a flu shot each flu season. Once per flu season, flu shots are free for people with Medicare, when you get it by doctors, or other health care providers (like senior centers and pharmacies) that take Medicare.

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