



CMS Snapshot

October 10-17, 2019

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, October 10 through 2pm Thursday, October 17

News Releases

*October 11- [Trump Administration Drives Access to More High-Quality Medicare Plan Choices in 2020](#). Consistent with the direction of President Trump's recent Executive Order on Strengthening and Improving Medicare for Our Nation's Seniors, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced today that seniors will have access to more high-quality Medicare Advantage and Part D prescription drug plans in 2020.

*October 16- [Secretary Azar Statement on FDA's 2019 Generic Drug Approval Record](#). The Food and Drug Administration announced that, in Fiscal Year 2019, the agency approved a total of 1,171 generic drugs, an all-time record, following a record 971 approvals in Fiscal Year 2018 and a record 937 approvals in Fiscal Year 2017. HHS Secretary Alex Azar issued the following statement.

*October 17- [Trump Administration Strengthens Oversight of Nursing Home Inspections to Keep Patients and Residents Safe](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced a major step in the Agency's efforts to ensure safety and quality for nursing home patients and residents.

Blogs

*October 10- [5 easy ways to prepare for 2020 Open Enrollment](#). Open Enrollment for 2020 Marketplace coverage starts November 1, 2019. There are things you can do now to get ready, whether you're applying for the first time or planning to re-enroll.

*October 15- [Shop & Compare Plans Now with the New Medicare Plan Finder](#). Open enrollment begins today! Now is the time to review your Medicare health and prescription drug coverage and make changes if it no longer meets your needs. The new Medicare Plan Finder is now available to help you compare 2020 coverage options and shop for plans.

*October 15- [Medicare Open Enrollment: More Choices, More Benefits, Easier to Shop](#). I am excited to share the steps we have taken to make this Medicare Open Enrollment season a great one. The Trump Administration believes people with Medicare should have more choices whether they are interested in Original Medicare (Part A and Part B), Medicare Advantage (Part C), prescription drug coverage (Part D), or Medicare Supplemental Insurance (Medigap).

Upcoming Items of Interest

*CMS Office of Minority Health

2020 CMS HEALTH EQUITY AWARD – Call for Nominations

CMS is excited to announce the [Call for Nominations for the 2020 CMS Health Equity Award](#).

Equity is a key component of high-quality healthcare. Health equity is defined by Healthy People 2020 as the attainment of the highest level of health for all people. A measure of health equity is the reduction or elimination of disparities in health that adversely affect vulnerable populations. CMS recognizes the importance of health equity and is working to ensure that disparities in health care quality and access are eliminated. You can visit the CMS Office of Minority Health [website](#) to learn more about some of the efforts underway. **Please read the criteria and complete one [Nomination Form](#) per nominee for the CMS Health Equity Award. All Nomination Forms should be submitted to the CMS Office of Minority Health (ATTN: 2020 CMS Health Equity Award, HealthEquityTA@cms.hhs.gov) no later than Friday, November 15th, 2019. Questions about the award can also be submitted to this mailbox.**

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