



CMS Snapshot

October 17-24, 2019

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, October 17 through 2pm Thursday, October 24

News Releases

*October 22- [Premiums for HealthCare.gov Plans are down 4 percent but remain unaffordable to non-subsidized consumers](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced that the average premium for the second lowest cost silver plan on HealthCare.gov for a 27 year-old will drop by 4 percent for the 2020 coverage year. Additionally, 20 more issuers will participate in states that use the Federal Health Insurance Exchange platform in 2020 bringing the total to 175 issuers compared to 132 in 2018, delivering more choice and competition for consumers. As a result of the Trump Administration's actions to stabilize the market, Americans will experience lower premiums along with greater choice for the second consecutive year.

*October 22- [HHS Awards \\$16 Million to Help Primary Care Practices Address Patients' Unhealthy Alcohol Use](#). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, through the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), today announced a \$16 million initiative to help primary care practices increase efforts to address patients' unhealthy alcohol use. Excessive alcohol use, which affects almost a third of adults, is the nation's third leading cause of preventable death. It is a major risk factor for many health, social, and economic problems, and has an estimated annual economic burden of over \$250 billion.

*October 23- [OCR Imposes a \\$2.15 Million Civil Money Penalty against Jackson Health System for HIPAA Violations](#). The Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has imposed a civil money penalty of \$2,154,000 against Jackson Health System (JHS) for violations of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) Security and Breach Notification Rules between 2013 and 2016. JHS is a nonprofit academic medical system based in Miami, Florida, which operates six major hospitals, a network of urgent care centers, multiple primary care and specialty care centers, long-term care nursing facilities, and corrections health services clinics. JHS provides health services to approximately 650,000 patients annually, and employs about 12,000 individuals.

*October 23- [HHS Awards \\$319 Million to Support Health Workforce Providers Caring for the Underserved](#). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), announced \$319 million in scholarship and loan repayment awards for clinicians and students through the [National Health Service Corps](#) (NHSC). With these providers entering NHSC service, there are now more than 13,000 medical, dental and behavioral health care clinicians providing quality care to more than 13.7 million Americans in rural, urban and tribal communities. There are also almost 1,480 students and medical residents preparing to serve in the Corps.

Blogs

*October 21- [The Future of Medicare Program Integrity](#). Earlier this month, President Trump announced an [Executive Order](#) charging CMS to propose annual changes to combat waste, fraud, and abuse in the Medicare program. That's why I'm proud to announce our vision to modernize our program integrity methods to better protect taxpayers from fraud, waste and abuse in Medicare. Every dollar spent on Medicare comes from American taxpayers and must not be misused.

*October 22- [Don't forget to care for your mental health](#). Depression is the leading cause of disability in the world, affecting 1 out of 6 adults. There are many different depression symptoms.

*October 22- [Care for your bones](#). About 25% of women and 5% of men 65 and over will get osteoporosis. Osteoporosis is a condition where your bones become weak and puts you at a greater risk for broken bones. In fact, many people don't know they have it until they break a bone. However, there are steps you can take to make your bones stronger and healthier.

*October 23- [New feature helps you compare nursing home safety](#). Choosing a nursing home for yourself or a loved one can be difficult. There are many things to consider including the quality of care and services provided. As you know, nursing home quality can vary. That's why we added a new feature on [Nursing Home Compare](#) to allow you to tell if a nursing home has been cited for issues related to nursing home abuse or neglect.

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