



## CMS Snapshot

### October 25-31, 2019

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

All releases below are from 2pm Friday, October 25 through 2pm Thursday, October 31

#### News Releases

\*October 25- [HHS Awards \\$2.27 Billion in Grants to Help Americans Access HIV/AIDS Care, Support Services and Medication](#). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced today approximately \$2.27 billion in Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program grants were awarded to cities, counties, states, and local community-based organizations in fiscal year (FY) 2019. This funding through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) supports a comprehensive system of HIV primary medical care, medication, and essential support services to more than half a million people with HIV in the United States.

\*October 27- [Remarks by Administrator Seema Verma at the HLTH Conference](#). "Thank you for having me. It's an honor to be here at the HLTH conference standing between you and the slot machines. So we all know the public is growing more and more frustrated with the high costs of healthcare and hassles in the system, many are talking about drastically expanding government to fix our problems. As head of the major government healthcare programs, I've made my practical reservations on that front clear. But, as the public begs for solutions around affordability and accessibility, I think the conversation should return to a more fundamental question of principle: what is the role of government in healthcare?"

\*October 29- [Remarks by Administrator Seema Verma at the Patients Over Paperwork Anniversary Event: "Patient Over Paperwork: A Journey Forward"](#). "Hello and thank you for joining us today as we mark the two year anniversary of one of our signature initiatives: Patients over Paperwork. I want to pause here at the beginning to thank Congressman Larry Bucshon and Congressman Michael Burgess in particular for their attendance today. As doctors and as leaders on the Health Subcommittee of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, they are key players in the effort to deliver a healthcare system that works for patients. Their contributions have been invaluable. They will be delivering a few words in a moment, and I look forward to hearing their perspectives."

\*October 29- [VA, Health and Human Services partner to improve health care protections for Veterans](#). The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Department of Health and Human Services' Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) recently announced the two agencies will compare information on questionable Veteran health care providers both in VA treatment facilities and through purchased care programs in their communities.

\*October 30- [HHS Office for Civil Rights Secures Corrective Action and Ensures Florida Orthopedic Practice Protects Patients with HIV from Discrimination](#). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights (HHS OCR) has successfully secured corrective action and resolved a complaint against the Florida Orthopedic Institute ("Florida Orthopedic"). The complaint alleged that Florida Orthopedic unlawfully cancelled a surgery because of a patient's HIV positive status. After HHS OCR informed Florida Orthopedic of the complaint and that it would be investigating the allegations, Florida Orthopedic banned the patient from the practice and cited the patient's complaint to HHS as a basis for doing so. Retaliation for filing complaints with HHS OCR is prohibited.

\*October 30- [HHS Secretary Azar, SAMHSA Assistant Secretary McCance-Katz Statements on Launch of FindTreatment.Gov](#). Today, the Department of Health and Human Services' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) announced the launch of [FindTreatment.gov](#), a newly designed website that will help connect Americans looking for substance abuse treatment with approximately 13,000 locations across the United States. HHS Secretary Alex Azar and SAMHSA Assistant Secretary Elinore McCance-Katz issued the following statements.

\*October 31- [CMS Announces Artificial Intelligence Health Outcomes Challenge Participants Advancing to Stage 1](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced today the top 25 participants selected to advance to Stage 1 of the CMS Artificial Intelligence (AI) Health Outcomes Challenge. A key step in implementing President Trump's Executive Order on Maintaining American Leadership in Artificial Intelligence, the CMS AI Health Outcomes Challenge will accelerate development of AI solutions that aid clinicians in predicting health outcomes and keeping patients healthy.

## Fact Sheets & Podcasts

\*October 25- [Federal Health Insurance Exchange 2020 Open Enrollment](#). The Federal Health Insurance Exchange (also known as the Marketplace) Open Enrollment Period runs from November 1, 2019 to December 15, 2019, for coverage starting on January 1, 2020. Similar to previous years, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is taking a strategic and cost-effective approach to inform individuals about Open Enrollment, deliver a smooth enrollment experience, and use consumer feedback to drive ongoing improvements across the Exchange platform.

\*October 28- [Episode 7: Medicare Open Enrollment/ What you Need to Know](#). Today's edition is titled "Medicare Open Enrollment: What You Need to Know." Kim Brandt, Principal Deputy Administrator for Operations, outlines what Medicare beneficiaries should know for this year's open enrollment season, share what's new and different, and provide some important fraud prevention tips.

\*October 29- [CMS Hospital Value-Based Purchasing Program Results for Fiscal Year 2020](#). The Hospital Value-Based Purchasing (VBP) Program is one of many quality programs Medicare has established to pay for the quality of care rather than just the quantity of services provided to patients. This program is part of our long-standing effort to improve care across the entire healthcare delivery system by tying Medicare payment to quality and cost measure performance, and as recently reinforced in Executive Order 13890, which emphasizes empowering patients and health providers with better quality care and cost data to improve their ability to make healthcare decisions and to hold providers accountable.

## Blogs

\*October 25- [Preview 2020 plans and prices today!](#) You can enroll in or renew a 2020 plan November 1 through December 15. You can start by previewing 2020 plans with personalized estimates. **Note:** You'll see exact prices later on when you fill out or update your Marketplace application.

\*October 31- [Halloween Special: Night of the Living Regs!](#) Today, it's starting to feel like Night of the Living Regulations here in Washington D.C. It's no secret that much of what haunts our healthcare system can be tied back to flaws in government policies intended to solve our nation's problems, but created more tricks than treats. These graveyards of complex regulations, accumulated over decades, could be compared to the living dead, putting our world-class healthcare system at risk and creating a horror show of administrative costs and burdens that suck the life out of innovation and competition in healthcare.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:partnership@cms.hhs.gov)