



CMS Snapshot

December 12-19, 2019

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, December 12 through 2pm Thursday, December 19.

News Releases

*December 12- [Secretary Azar Statement on Confirmation of Stephen Hahn as FDA Commissioner](#). Today, the United States Senate voted, 72-18, to confirm Dr. Stephen Hahn as Commissioner of Food and Drugs. Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar issued the following statement.

*December 12- [OCR Settles Second Case in HIPAA Right of Access Initiative](#). The Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is announcing its second enforcement action and settlement under its HIPAA¹ Right of Access Initiative. OCR announced this initiative earlier this year promising to vigorously enforce the rights of patients to get access to their medical records promptly, without being overcharged, and in the readily producible format of their choice.

*December 16- [CMS Statement on Health Insurance Exchange Open Enrollment Extension](#). "CMS's primary goal is to provide a seamless Open Enrollment experience for HealthCare.gov consumers and ensure that those Americans who want coverage offered through the Exchange can enroll in a plan. In an abundance of caution, to accommodate consumers who attempted to enroll in coverage during the final hours of Open Enrollment but who may have experienced issues, starting at 3:00PM EST today, December 16 we are extending the deadline to sign up for January 1 coverage until 3:00AM EST December 18."

*December 17- [Trump Administration Proposes New Rules to Increase Accountability and Availability of the Organ Supply](#). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) today took major steps to increase the availability of organs for the 113,000 Americans on waitlists for lifesaving organ transplants – 20 of whom die each day. As directed by President Trump in his July 10 [Executive Order on Advancing American Kidney Health](#), the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is issuing a proposed rule to change the way organ procurement organizations (OPOs) are held accountable for their performance, and the Health

Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) is issuing a proposed rule to remove financial barriers to living organ donation.

*December 18- [Trump Administration Takes Historic Steps to Lower U.S. Prescription Drug Prices](#). Today, President Trump, along with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, issued a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) that, if finalized, would allow for the importation of certain prescription drugs from Canada. In addition, the Administration is announcing the availability of a new draft guidance for industry that describes procedures drug manufacturers can follow to facilitate importation of prescription drugs, including biological products, that are FDA-approved, manufactured abroad, authorized for sale in any foreign country, and originally intended for sale in that foreign country.

*December 18- [HHS Supports Advanced Development for Treatment of Anthrax Lung Infections](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued the first Project BioShield contract to fund the advanced development needed to support the expanded use of an existing antibiotic to treat exposure to inhalational anthrax.

*December 19- [HHS OCR Secures Voluntary Resolution with Pennsylvania Department of Human Services to Strengthen Language Access for Limited English Proficiency Individuals](#). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office for Civil Rights (OCR), has entered into a Voluntary Resolution Agreement (VRA) with the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (PaDHS).

*December 19- [Updated Joint Guidance on Privacy and Student Education and Health Records](#). The U.S. Department of Education and the Office for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services released updated joint guidance today addressing the application of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) Privacy Rule to records maintained on students.

*December 19- [CMS awards funding to combat opioid misuse among expectant mothers and improve care for children impacted by the crisis](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced ten states selected to receive funding under the Maternal Opioid Misuse (MOM) Model. These selections are the next step in the CMS multi-pronged strategy to combat the nation's opioid crisis and address fragmentation in the care of pregnant and postpartum Medicaid beneficiaries with opioid use disorder (OUD).

*December 19- [CMS Releases Enhanced Drug Dashboards Updated with Data for 2018](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released new 2018 data and significantly enhanced its Drug Spending Dashboards in the most comprehensive update of the consumer tools to date. As part of the update, the Dashboards now list prescription drugs in their first year on the market (in this case, drugs that were new in 2018). Under the previous methodology, it would take two years for a new drug to appear in the dashboard.

Fact Sheets

*December 17- [Organ Procurement Organization \(OPO\) Condition for Coverage Proposed Rule: Revision to Outcome Measures for OPOs](#). On December 17, 2019, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a proposed rule that would update the Organ Procurement Organization (OPO) Conditions for Coverage that OPOs must meet to receive Medicare and Medicaid payment. The proposal is a directive of President Trump's [Executive Order on Advancing American Kidney Health](#) and would apply to procurement of all organs from deceased donors.

*December 19- [Comparing the InCK & MOM Models](#). The Integrated Care for Kids (InCK) and Maternal Opioid Misuse (MOM) Models are two new Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (Innovation Center) models designed to improve care delivery for vulnerable Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) beneficiaries, particularly those affected by the nation's opioid crisis, while improving quality of care and reducing spending.

Blogs

*December 12- [Last chance: The 2020 Open Enrollment deadline is days away!](#) Time's running out for 2020 Marketplace insurance! Open Enrollment for 2020 Marketplace insurance ends Sunday, December 15. This means you have only 3 days to enroll in, re-enroll in, or change a 2020 Marketplace plan.

*December 16- [2020 Open Enrollment is over, but you may have options](#). Marketplace Open Enrollment for 2020 coverage ended December 15. If you missed the deadline, you may still be able to get or change 2020 coverage two ways.

*December 17- [Use your new Medicare card now](#). By now, you should have your [new Medicare card](#)—with your new Medicare Number. Make sure you bring your card to any appointments with your doctors, so they have your new number in their systems. Doing so will help us process your claims. You can only use your old card and Medicare Number to get health care services until December 31, 2019.

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