



CMS Snapshot

January 10-16, 2020

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, January 9 through 2pm Thursday, January 16, 2020.

News Releases

*January 15- [Draft Federal Health IT Strategic Plan Supports Patient Access to Their Own Health Information](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released the [draft 2020-2025 Federal Health IT Strategic Plan](#) for public comment. The draft plan outlines federal health information technology (health IT) goals and objectives to ensure that individuals have access to their electronic health information to help enable them to manage their health and shop for care. The strategic plan was developed by the HHS Office for the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) in collaboration with more than 25 federal organizations.

*January 15- [HHS Activates Emergency Prescription Assistance Program for Uninsured Puerto Rico Residents Needing Medicine after Recent Earthquakes](#). As part of the Trump Administration's government-wide response to the series of earthquakes and aftershocks affecting Puerto Rico, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response ([ASPR](#)) activated its Emergency Prescription Assistance Program ([EPAP](#)) for Puerto Rico to give residents access to the critical prescription medications they need. The program pays for prescription medications for people without health insurance who are affected by disasters.

*January 16- [HHS Announces Proposed Rule Regarding Equal Treatment of Faith-Based Organizations in HHS-Supported Social Service Programs](#). Today, January 16, 2020, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) [is proposing a rule - PDF](#) that implements President Trump's Executive Order No. 13831 (May 3, 2018), removes regulatory burdens on religious organizations, and ensures that religious and non-religious organizations are treated equally in HHS-supported programs. The proposed rule ensures that HHS-supported social service programs are implemented in a manner consistent with the Constitution and other applicable federal law.

*January 16- [HHS OCR Secures Voluntary Resolution with CHRISTUS Trinity Mother Frances Health System to Strengthen its Provision of Auxiliary Aids and Services to Individuals Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing](#). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office for Civil Rights (OCR), has entered into a Voluntary Resolution Agreement (VRA) with CHRISTUS Trinity Mother Frances Health System (CHRISTUS TMF) resolving a compliance review concerning the rights of patients who are deaf or hard of hearing, to ensure that they receive effective communication.

*January 16- [Secretary Azar Hosts Foreign Officials to Reaffirm Trump Administration's Support for Protecting Life in Global Health Policy](#). Today, January 16, 2020, Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex Azar hosted ambassadors and high level officials from more than 30 countries representing more than 1.7 billion people at the Blair House for a meeting to further advance the Trump Administration's work within global health policy to promote a positive vision for women's health, protect the lives of the most vulnerable, defend the important role of the family, and encourage respect for national sovereignty. The meeting also served to further strengthen collaborative efforts among nations going forward in 2020.

Fact Sheets

*January 13- [CMS Reduces Psychiatric Hospital Burden with New Survey Process](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced a streamlined survey and certification process for psychiatric hospitals, delivering on the Agency's "Patients Over Paperwork" initiative. The full benefits of this initiative can be explored here: <https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Outreach/Partnerships/PatientsOverPaperwork>. This new process will ensure safety and quality through more holistic and efficient hospital inspections that protect patients, while reducing burden for providers.

Blogs

*January 10- [At the End of another Successful Medicare Open Enrollment, CMS is Dedicated to Ensuring Seniors are Confident in their Choices](#). As we start a new year, we know that for many seniors January 1st also signals a fresh start for their Medicare health insurance coverage. Coverage and costs may change, deductibles reset, and those who changed health or drug plans start learning about their new plan benefits. Another successful Medicare Open Enrollment wrapped up on December 7th, but the need to help seniors understand and access their coverage did not. CMS' dedication to that goal is ironclad and unwavering.

*January 15- [Get a glaucoma test and make your vision top priority!](#) More than 3 million people in the U.S. have glaucoma, and some have no idea they have it. Glaucoma is a group of diseases

that can cause permanent vision loss and blindness. If you get a glaucoma test and find treatment early, you can protect your eyes from serious vision loss.

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