



CMS Snapshot

January 16-23, 2020

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, January 16 through 2pm Thursday, January 23, 2020.

News Releases

*January 21- [CMS finalizes decision to cover Acupuncture for Chronic Low Back Pain for Medicare beneficiaries](#). Today the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) finalized a decision to cover acupuncture for Medicare patients with chronic low back pain. Before this final National Coverage Determination (NCD) reconsideration, acupuncture was nationally non-covered by Medicare. CMS conducted evidence reviews and examined the coverage policies of private payers to inform today's decision.

*January 23- [Surgeon General Releases First Report Focused on Smoking Cessation in 30 Years](#). Three decades after the first Surgeon General's report on smoking cessation, today, the Surgeon General is releasing a new report that reviews and updates evidence on the importance of quitting smoking. The report finds that more than two-thirds of U.S. adult cigarette smokers report interest in quitting cigarette smoking; and the majority of adult cigarette smokers in the United States have tried to quit during the past year.

Blogs

*January 16- 2019 tax season is here! Here's how to prepare. [Attention: 2019 tax filing season has started. Here's what you can do now to get ready.](#)

*January 17- [2019: What CMS Accomplished](#). "It's difficult to overstate the significance of CMS's mission. The agency's actions affect millions of people, allocate over one trillion dollars and ultimately do much to influence America's health. When I took on the position of Administrator, I was often advised to choose one or two areas of focus. Don't take on too much, or you might not get anything done – so the advice went. But I perceived that the problems in American healthcare call for sweeping, not incremental, change."

*January 22- [It's Time to Walk the Talk: Reflections on the Second Report of the WHO's NCD Commission](#). "Countries around the world face different and unique public health challenges that sometimes require regional or even international collaboration to solve. One such challenge that has prompted calls for international cooperation are non-communicable diseases, or NCDs for short."

*January 23- [Making it Easier to Compare Providers and Care Settings on Medicare.gov](#). "CMS has been a driving force behind public quality reporting on facility and clinician performance based on the premise that making this information available to the public will drive improvements to health care quality. We want to empower patients to select and access the right care from the right provider and are building on the President's [Executive Order](#) to improve Medicare for our nation's seniors. "

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