



CMS Snapshot

January 2-9, 2020

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

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

News Releases

*January 6- [HHS and CMS Announce Brad Smith as CMMI Director, Senior Advisor for Value-Based Transformation](#). Today, the Department of Health and Human Services and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services announced that Brad Smith will serve as Director of the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation at CMS and Senior Advisor to Secretary Azar for Value-Based Transformation.

*January 7- [Millennium Health Donates Data to Help Fight the Drug Overdose Crisis](#). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) today is announcing an agreement with Millennium Health to provide near real-time drug testing data that will enhance efforts and targeted approaches in fighting the overdose crisis in the U.S. This donation will improve HHS' work with state and local officials on drug trends in their areas to target coordination of preventive healthcare resources to avoid overdoses.

*January 8- [HHS Secretary Azar Declares Public Health Emergency for Puerto Rico Following Earthquakes](#). A series of earthquakes and aftershocks in Puerto Rico this week prompted Health and Human Services Secretary Alex. M. Azar II to declare a public health emergency for the U.S. territory. In declaring the public health emergency and [authorizing flexibilities for CMS beneficiaries](#), Secretary Azar acted within his authority under the Public Health Service Act and Social Security Act. These actions and flexibilities are retroactive to Dec. 28, 2019.

*January 9- [OCR Issues Guidance to Help Ensure Equal Access to Emergency Services and the Appropriate Sharing of Medical Information Following Puerto Rico Earthquakes](#). Following the earthquakes in Puerto Rico, the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services remains in close coordination with federal partners to help ensure that emergency officials effectively address the needs of at-risk populations as part of disaster response. To this end, emergency responders and officials should consider adopting, as circumstances and resources allow, the following practices to help make sure all segments of the community are served.

*January 9- [CMS offers widespread support for Puerto Rico amid Earthquakes](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) today announced efforts underway to support Puerto Rico in response to recent earthquakes. On January 8, Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar declared a public health emergency (PHE) in Puerto Rico that is retroactive to December 28, 2019. CMS is working to ensure hospitals and other facilities can continue operations and provide access to care despite the effects of the disastrous earthquakes.

Fact Sheets

*January 7- [Market Saturation and Utilization Data Tool](#). Market Saturation and Utilization Data Tool was developed to allow the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to monitor market saturation as a means to help prevent potential fraud, waste, and abuse (FWA). Market saturation, in the present context, refers to the density of providers of a particular service within a defined geographic area relative to the number of beneficiaries receiving that service in the area.

*January 8- [2020 Federal Health Insurance Exchange Enrollment Period Final Weekly Enrollment Snapshot](#). Approximately 8.3 million people selected or were automatically re-enrolled in plans using the HealthCare.gov platform during the 2020 open enrollment period. These snapshots provide point-in-time estimates of weekly plan selections, call center activity and visits to [HealthCare.gov](#) or [CuidadoDeSalud.gov](#). The final snapshot reports new plan selections, active plan renewals and automatic enrollments. It does not report the number of consumers who paid premiums to effectuate their enrollment.

Blogs

*January 2- [Take advantage of free preventive services in 2020](#). With Marketplace coverage, you have access to free preventive services, like flu shots, check-ups, and screening tests. Getting these recommended services is an important step toward good health and well-being.

*January 6- [Cervical cancer tests- early detection protects women](#). All women are at risk for cervical cancer, but did you know it occurs most often in women over 30? Each year, more than 12,000 women in the U.S. are diagnosed with cervical cancer. Fortunately, it's one of the easiest female cancers to detect, and it's highly treatable when found early.

*January 6- [2018 Quality Payment Program \(QPP\) Performance Results](#). In 2015, Congress passed the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act – or MACRA. In an attempt to streamline multiple quality programs for physicians, the law created the Merit Based Incentive Payments System (MIPS). Unfortunately, upon implementation of the law, many clinician stakeholders still found the system confusing and burdensome.

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