



## CMS Snapshot

### January 23-30, 2020

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, January 23 through 2pm Thursday, January 30, 2020.

#### News Releases

\*January 23- [Secretary Azar Statement on March for Life](#). HHS Secretary Alex Azar released the following statement regarding the annual March for Life and the Trump Administration's continued efforts to protect life and conscience.

\*January 24- [Trump Administration Actions to Protect Life and Conscience](#).

\*January 24- [HHS Issues Notice of Violation to California for its Abortion Coverage Mandate](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office for Civil Rights (OCR), announced an action to protect human life and the conscience rights of all Americans.

\*January 27- [CMS Expands Coverage of Next Generation Sequencing as a Diagnostic Tool for Patients with Breast and Ovarian Cancer](#). Today the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) took action to cover FDA approved or cleared laboratory diagnostic tests using Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) for patients with germline (inherited) ovarian or breast cancer.

\*January 29- [CMS Administrator Seema Verma's remarks to the Centers for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight's \(CCIIO's\) Industry Day](#). *CMS Administrator Seema Verma's remarks to the Centers for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight's (CCIIO's) Industry Day (As prepared for delivery – January 29, 2020)*. "Thank you all for coming today. It's a pleasure to be with you, and I want to thank Preston Rutledge from the Department of Labor and Carol Weiser from the Treasury Department, both of whom are here today. Your agencies have been indispensable partners in driving competition and affordability in American health care and it's been a pleasure to work alongside you."

\*January 30- [Trump Administration Announces Transformative Medicaid Health Adult Opportunity](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced the Healthy Adult Opportunity (HAO), which is an optional demonstration initiative. It is designed to give states unprecedented tools to design innovative health coverage programs tailored to

the unique needs of adult beneficiaries, while holding states accountable for results and maintaining strong protections for our most at risk populations.

\*January 30- [Secretary Azar Statement on 2018 Life Expectancy and Drug Overdose Death Data](#). On Thursday, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Health Statistics released final data regarding life expectancy and deaths from drug overdoses in 2018. HHS Secretary Alex Azar issued the following statement:

## Fact Sheets

\*January 30- [Medicaid Facts and Figures](#).

\*January 30- [Healthy Adult Opportunity Fact Sheet](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is announcing a new opportunity to support states with greater flexibility to improve the health of their Medicaid populations. The Healthy Adult Opportunity (HAO) emphasizes the concept of value-based care while granting states with extensive flexibility to administer and design their programs within a defined budget.

## Blogs

\*January 29- [CMS Announces Updated Quality Information Including Star Ratings on Hospital Compare](#). If there's one thing that distinguishes the Trump Administration's historic healthcare agenda, it's the single-minded focus on patients. Everything we do is about empowering patients, and today CMS took a major step that empowers those receiving care in America's hospitals. We refreshed our *Hospital Compare* website with updated measurement data and the Overall Hospital Quality Star Ratings.

\*January 29- [Achieving Better Health for Mothers and Babies: Taking Action, Saving Lives](#). In our work, we see medical innovation almost daily. The advancements made in neuroscience, bionics and trauma care would be considered miracles to physicians 100 years ago – let alone 10 years ago. Despite many giant leaps forward, our nation continues to struggle with tragic and often preventable deaths related to childbirth.

For more information please email [partnership@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:partnership@cms.hhs.gov)