



CMS Snapshot

January 30-February 6, 2020

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, January 30 through 2pm Thursday, February 6, 2020.

News Releases

*January 31- [CMS Releases Proposed Notice of Benefit and Payment Parameters for 2021](#).

Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued the proposed annual Notice of Benefit and Payment Parameters Rule for 2021, also known as the Proposed 2021 Payment Notice. This proposed rule would update regulatory and financial standards applied to issuers and Exchanges, as well as set parameters for the risk adjustment program.

*January 31- [Secretary Azar Declares Public Health Emergency for United States for 2019 Novel Coronavirus](#). Health and Human Services Secretary Alex M. Azar II declared a public health emergency for the entire United States to aid the nation's healthcare community in responding to 2019 novel [coronavirus](#). "While this virus poses a serious public health threat, the risk to the American public remains low at this time, and we are working to keep this risk low," Secretary Azar said. "We are committed to protecting the health and safety of all Americans, and this public health emergency declaration is the latest in the series of steps the Trump Administration has taken to protect our country."

*February 4- [HHS, Regeneron Collaborate to Develop 2019-nCoV Treatment](#). *Expanded Agreement Applies Promising Technology to Emerging Infectious Diseases*. To develop therapeutics to treat the 2019 novel coronavirus, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) will expand an existing collaboration with Regeneron Pharmaceuticals Inc. of Tarrytown, New York.

*February 4- [Secretary Azar Statement on President Trump's 2020 State of the Union Address](#).

HHS Secretary Alex Azar released the following statement regarding President Trump's 2020 State of the Union address: "Lowering the cost of healthcare and improving the health of Americans has been a key priority of President Trump during his first three years in office, and tonight, he laid out the results that his leadership has produced. American life expectancy is rising again, drug deaths are down for the first time in three decades, and death rates from cancer are dropping. Retail drug prices are down, Medicare and Obamacare premiums are

down, patients are getting access to the data they need to control their care, and seniors on Medicare have access to new, patient-centered options and benefits.”

*February 5- [Proposed Changes to Medicare Advantage and Part D Will Provide Better Coverage, More Access and Improved Transparency for Medicare Beneficiaries](#). Today the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a proposed rule and the Advance Notice Part II to further advance the agency’s efforts to strengthen and modernize the Medicare Advantage and Part D prescription drug programs. The changes proposed today would lower beneficiary cost sharing on some of the most expensive prescription drugs, promote the use of generic drugs, and allow beneficiaries to know in advance and compare their out-of-pocket payments for different prescription drugs.

Fact Sheets

*February 5- [Contract Year 2021 and 2022 Medicare Advantage and Part D Proposed Rule \(CMS-4190-P\)](#). On February 5, 2020, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a proposed rule that updates Medicare Advantage (MA or Part C) and the Medicare prescription drug benefit (Part D) program to give seniors more choices and lower out-of-pocket costs, and to encourage price transparency. The proposed rule is another step in lowering drug costs for seniors, increasing competition, and further advancing the agency’s efforts to strengthen and modernize the popular MA and Part D programs.

*February 5- [2021 Medicare Advantage and Part D Advance Notice Part II Fact Sheet](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released Part II of the Calendar Year (CY) 2021 Advance Notice of Methodological Changes for Medicare Advantage (MA) Capitation Rates and Part C and Part D Payment Policies (the Advance Notice). CMS released Part I of the Advance Notice on January 6, 2020.

Blogs

*January 30- [3 routine ways to use your 2020 Marketplace coverage](#). Health coverage pays for provider services, prescriptions, hospital care, and special equipment when you're sick. It's also important when you're not sick. Now that you're enrolled in a health plan for 2020, here's how you can use your new coverage throughout the year no matter your situation.

*February 5- [Increasing Access to Generics and Biosimilars in Medicare](#). Under the leadership of President Trump, CMS is committed to lowering prescription drug prices for all Americans. A key component of our strategy is strengthening competition among generic and biosimilar medicines. Competition in the market for prescription drugs lowers costs and improves access for patients.

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