



CMS Snapshot

December 19, 2024-January 2, 2025

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, December 19, 2024 through 2pm Thursday, January 2, 2025.

News Releases

*December 20- [HHS Announces Cost Savings for 64 Prescription Drugs Thanks to the Medicare Prescription Drug Inflation Rebate Program Established by the Biden-Harris Administration's Lower Cost Prescription Drug Law](#). *Under the Inflation Reduction Act, some people with Medicare will pay less for some Part B drugs because the drug's price increased faster than the rate of inflation.* The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), today announced that some Medicare enrollees will pay less for 64 drugs available through Medicare Part B. The drugs will have a lowered Part B coinsurance rate from January 1, 2025 – March 31, 2025, since drug companies raised prices for each of these 64 drugs faster than the rate of inflation. Over 853,000 people with Medicare use these drugs annually to treat conditions such as cancer, osteoporosis, and substance use disorder. Since April 1, 2023, people with Medicare have seen savings on over 120 drugs thanks to Inflation Reduction Act's Medicare Prescription Drug Inflation Rebate Program.

*December 20- [HealthCare.gov Breaks New Record with 16.6 Million Consumers Signing Up for Coverage—the Highest Ever for January 1 Coverage](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is committed to a robust Marketplace Open Enrollment process for consumers so they can easily purchase high-quality, affordable health care coverage. CMS reports that a record 16.6 million^[1] consumers signed up for plan year 2025 and will receive up to a full year of coverage beginning January 1. Of those consumers, 2 million are new to the Marketplace this year. This represents selections in the 31 states that use HealthCare.gov. Plan selection continues in most State-based Marketplaces, as well. The next national snapshot will be available in early January.

*December 20- [HHS Launches Let's Get Real Campaign to Highlight Facts About Childhood Vaccines and Share Stories from Confident Parents Who Vaccinate Their Kids](#). *The campaign shares balanced information about vaccines and encourages parents to share why they trust vaccines to protect their children.* Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) launched the [Let's Get Real](#) campaign to cut through the noise of misinformation and give

parents the balanced information they need about childhood vaccines. The campaign provides verifiable facts so parents can get the information they want to make informed vaccine decisions, and it shares stories from doctors and peers on why most of us rely on vaccines to protect our children. *Let's Get Real* also offers tools for health care professionals with pediatric patients.

*December 20- [HHS Launches Healthy Border 2030 Framework Highlighting Health Priorities and Actions to Support Border Communities and Populations](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Office of Global Affairs (OGA) [U.S. Section of the U.S. – Mexico Border Health Commission](#) (Commission), released [Healthy Border 2030 - PDF](#). This framework includes an assessment of health data and priority issues that affect the health of the population on the U.S. side of the border as well as high-level strategic recommendations for federal, state and local governments, and community-based stakeholders on how to take action to address them. Building on previous reports in 2010 and 2020, the recommendations in the 2030 framework focus on the U.S. context and consider, when feasible, the importance of a binational approach in improving the health and well-being for populations along the U.S. southern border.

*December 27- [HHS Office for Civil Rights Proposes Measures to Strengthen Cybersecurity in Health Care Under HIPAA](#). *The Department's Office for Civil Rights seeks to update HIPAA Security Rule for the first time since 2013.* Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through its Office for Civil Rights (OCR), issued a proposed rule to improve cybersecurity and better protect the U.S. health care system from a growing number of cyberattacks. The proposed rule would modify the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) Security Rule to require health plans, health care clearinghouses (an organization that enables the exchange of health care data between a provider and a payer (insurance company)), and most health care providers, and their business associates, to strengthen cybersecurity protections for individuals' protected health information. This proposed rule is the latest step taken by OCR to address more frequent cyberattacks targeting the U.S. health care system, consistent with the HHS Healthcare and Public Health critical infrastructure sector [Cybersecurity Performance Goals](#).

*December 31- [Statement from HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra as New \\$2,000 Out-of-Pocket Cap Takes Effect, Saving Millions on Prescription Drugs](#). Today, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra issued the following statement announcing that the new \$2,000 cap on out-of-pocket costs for prescription drugs will be in effect as of January 1, 2025. As part of the Inflation Reduction Act, people with Medicare Part D will pay no more than \$2,000 for all their covered prescription drugs for all of 2025.

*December 31- [HHS Awards \\$10 Million for New Community-Based Maternal Behavioral Health Services Grant Program](#). The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), an agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), recently awarded \$10 million for [the Community-Based Maternal Behavioral Health Services Program](#), a

new grant program supporting the behavioral health of pregnant and postpartum women. Behavioral health conditions, such as postpartum depression, anxiety, and substance use disorder, affect about 1 in 5 pregnant and postpartum women in the U.S, and have negative impacts not only on the mother but also entire families.