



## CMS Snapshot

### January 9-16, 2025

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, January 9 through 2pm Thursday, January 16, 2025.

#### News Releases

\*January 10- [CMS Roundup \(January 10, 2025\)](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) provides an at-a-glance summary of news from around the agency.

\*January 10- [CMS Releases Proposed 2026 Payment Policy Updates for Medicare Advantage and Part D Programs](#). *Proposed policies would continue to keep Medicare Advantage and Part D stable.* Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released the Calendar Year (CY) 2026 Advance Notice for the Medicare Advantage (MA) and the Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Programs that would update payment policies for these programs. This release complements the Contract Year 2026 MA and Part D proposed rule that [CMS released in November 2024](#). If finalized, these policies and updates would continue commonsense, fiscally responsible technical updates to MA payments. Payments from the government to MA plans are expected to increase on average by 4.33%, or over \$21 billion, from 2025 to 2026, as proposed.

\*January 10- [CMS Announces Resources and Flexibilities to Assist with the Public Health Emergency in the State of California](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced today that additional resources and flexibilities are available in response to the 2025 Southern California Wildfires. CMS is working closely with the State of California and federal partners to put these flexibilities in place to ensure those affected by this natural disaster have access to the care they need – when they need it most.

\*January 10- [HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra Declares Public Health Emergency for California to Aid Health Care Response to Wildfires](#). *ASPR emergency personnel prepared to augment state and local response efforts.* Today, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra declared a [Public Health Emergency \(PHE\)](#) for California to address the health impacts of the ongoing wildfires in Los Angeles County.

\*January 14- [Resource: Active Shooter Drills Research: An Annotated Bibliography](#).

\*January 14- [Biden-Harris Administration Announces \\$60 Million Investment for Adding Early Morning, Night, and Weekend Hours at Community Health Centers](#). *Health centers see patients regardless of ability to pay; early morning, late night, and weekend hours will provide new options for getting care for patients who lack sick leave or struggle with transportation, child care and other issues during typical business hours.* Today, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), an agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), announced a \$60 million investment in 125 HRSA-funded community health centers that serve nearly 4.2 million people to expand their hours of operation to improve access to health care services. Health centers receiving this new funding will add an additional 20 hours of operation a week on average to support the critical clinical and administrative staff necessary to add early morning (before work), night and weekend hours.

\*January 14- [HHS Office for Civil Rights Settles HIPAA Phishing Cybersecurity Investigation with Solara Medical Supplies, LLC for \\$3,000,000](#). *Settlement resolves multiple HIPAA Security Rule and Breach Notification Rule failures.* Today the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office for Civil Rights (OCR) announced a settlement with Solara Medical Supplies, LLC (Solara), a supplier and direct-to-patient distributor of continuous glucose monitors, insulin pumps, and other supplies to patients with diabetes, concerning potential violations of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) Security Rule and Breach Notification Rule following a breach of electronic protected health information (ePHI) caused by a phishing incident.

\*January 15- [HHS Releases Report on Consolidation and Private Equity \(PE\) in Health Care Markets](#). Today, HHS released a [report in response to the Consolidation in Health Care Markets Request for Information \(RFI\) - PDF](#), highlighting the impacts of increasing consolidation in our nation's health care markets and recent influx of Private Equity (PE) and other private investors active in the space.

\*January 15- [HHS Office for Civil Rights Settles HIPAA Case Against Memorial Healthcare System Over Patient Access to Records](#). *This settlement marks the 52nd enforcement action in the OCR Right of Access Initiative.* Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office for Civil Rights (OCR) announced a settlement with South Broward Hospital District d/b/a Memorial Healthcare System (Memorial Healthcare System), a Florida health system, concerning a potential violation of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) Privacy Rule. The settlement resolves litigation resulting from an investigation about a complaint alleging a lack of timely access to an individual's protected health information (PHI).

\*January 15- [SAMHSA Releases Updated National Behavioral Health Crisis Care Guidance](#). The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), an agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), today released updated [National Behavioral Health Crisis Care Guidance](#) (National Guidance), comprised of three documents: *2025 National Guidelines for a Behavioral Health Coordinated System of Crisis Care*;

*Model Definitions for Behavioral Health Emergency, Crisis, and Crisis-Related Services*; and a draft *Mobile Crisis Team Services: An Implementation Toolkit*, which is being released today for public comment.

\*January 15- [HHS Office for Civil Rights Settles HIPAA Ransomware Cybersecurity Investigation for \\$10,000](#). *Settlement with Northeast Surgical Group marks OCR's 10th ransomware enforcement action and 4th enforcement action in OCR's Risk Analysis Initiative*. Today the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office for Civil Rights (OCR) announced a settlement with Northeast Surgical Group, P.C. (NESG), a provider of surgical services in Michigan, for a potential violation under the [Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 \(HIPAA\) Security Rule](#). OCR enforces the [HIPAA Privacy, Security, and Breach Notification Rules](#), which set forth the requirements that covered entities (health plans, health care clearinghouses, and most health care providers), and business associates must follow to protect the privacy and security of protected health information (PHI).

\*January 16- [HHS Office for Civil Rights and Cedars-Sinai Enter Into Mutual Agreement to Advance Civil Rights and Improve Maternal Health for All](#). *Agreement Takes Important Steps in Addressing Racial Disparities in Maternal Health Outcomes by Ensuring That Black Women and Other Women of Color Have Access to Treatment During the Full Course of Their Care*. Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office for Civil Rights (OCR), and Cedars-Sinai Medical Center (Cedars-Sinai) entered into a Voluntary Resolution Agreement (Agreement) to improve maternal health outcomes for Black, Latina, and other maternal patients of color. In June 2022, OCR opened a compliance review of Cedars-Sinai based on concerns expressed by patients.

\*January 16- [HHS Intends to Provide \\$211 Million to Accelerate, Enhance Platform Capability for Emerging Infectious Diseases](#). *Funding will bolster pandemic preparedness by leveraging flexible platforms*. Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced it intends to provide \$211 million to the Rapid Response Partnership Vehicle (RRPV) Consortium to enhance mRNA platform capabilities so that the U.S. is better prepared to respond to emerging infectious diseases like avian flu. This funding, from the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA), part of the HHS Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR), will support development and long-term manufacturing capability of an RNA-based vaccine platform technology to combat evolving 21st century biothreats.

## Fact Sheets

\*January 10- [2026 Medicare Advantage and Part D Advance Notice Fact Sheet](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released the Calendar Year (CY) 2026 Advance Notice of Methodological Changes for Medicare Advantage (MA) Capitation Rates and Part C and Part D Payment Policies (the CY 2026 Advance Notice). CMS will accept comments on the

CY 2026 Advance Notice through 11:59 PM Eastern Time on February 10, 2025, before publishing the final Rate Announcement on or before April 7, 2025.

\*January 10- [Draft CY 2026 Part D Redesign Program Instructions Fact Sheet](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released the Draft Calendar Year (CY) 2026 Part D Redesign Program Instructions (the Draft CY 2026 Program Instructions) concurrently with the Advance Notice of Methodological Changes for CY 2026 for Medicare Advantage (MA) Capitation Rates and Part C and Part D Payment Policies (the CY 2026 Advance Notice). CMS will accept comments on the Draft CY 2026 Part D Redesign Program Instructions through 11:59 PM Eastern Time on February 10, 2025, before publishing the final program instructions no later than April 7, 2025.

\*January 13- [HHS Notice of Benefit and Payment Parameters for 2026 Final Rule](#). *Introduction-* The Affordable Care Act (ACA) is more popular than ever: A new report shows that nearly 50 million people – or one in seven Americans – have had ACA Marketplace coverage at some point. And so far, nearly 24 million people have selected plans during the 2025 Open Enrollment Period, which runs until January 15 on [HealthCare.gov](#) .

\*January 13- [Fact Sheet: HHS Secretary Becerra’s Postpartum Maternal Health Collaborative Effectively Mobilizes State and Local Partnerships to Improve Outcomes](#).

\*January 15- [CMS Moves Closer to Accountable Care Goals with 2025 ACO Initiatives](#). CMS has made substantial progress on its goal for all people with Traditional Medicare to be in a care relationship with accountability for quality and total cost of care by 2030. As of January 2025, 53.4% of people with Traditional (fee-for-service) Medicare are in an accountable care relationship with a provider. This represents more than 14.8 million people and marks a 4.3 percentage point increase from January 2024, the largest annual increase since CMS began tracking accountable care relationships.

## Blogs

\*January 10- [Protecting Civil Rights and Access to Health Care](#). *By: [Melanie Fontes Rainer](#), Director for Office for Civil Rights (OCR). Summary: HHS OCR Director reflects on the accomplishments of the Office for Civil Rights under the Biden-Harris Administration, including rulemakings, enforcement actions, and resources for the health care sector. The belief in and commitment to making access to health and human services a reality for everyone—regardless of a person’s sex, race, color, national origin, disability or age—is a cornerstone of our mission at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), [Office for Civil Rights \(OCR\)](#) and why my staff and I have worked hard, day in and day out, to fulfill this mandate.*

\*January 10- [Ensuring Nondiscrimination in the Use of AI is Good Medicine](#). *By: [Melanie Fontes Rainer](#), Director for Office for Civil Rights (OCR). Summary: Ensuring Nondiscrimination Through the Use of Artificial Intelligence and Other Emerging Technologies. Artificial intelligence (AI) has*

the potential to revolutionize health care - bringing efficiency, innovation, and cost savings to one of the nation's most critical sectors that impacts every person. By automating routine tasks, enhancing diagnostic accuracy, and streamlining patient care, AI can alleviate the burden on health care providers while improving patient outcomes. A practical, market-driven approach to AI in health care — one that protects against discrimination and safeguards patient privacy — aligns with values of fairness, accountability, and responsible innovation.

\*January 13- [Successor Models, Scaling Pathways, and the CMS Innovation Center](#). Liz Fowler, Eliot Fishman, Purva Rawal, Ellen Lukens, Claire Schreiber, Megan Cardin, and Tom Duvall.

*Introduction:* Research and discovery are an iterative process. This process of testing and refinement is important for understanding how the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (Innovation Center) implements its statutory mandate to test innovative payment and service delivery models to reduce program expenditures while preserving or enhancing the quality of care. Many Innovation Center models have made significant progress through multiple iterations of a concept rather than a one-time test.

\*January 16- [Discover your health care options after Open Enrollment](#). Missed the January 15 deadline for 2025 Marketplace Open Enrollment? Don't worry—you may still have options for health coverage for the rest of the year.