



CMS Snapshot

February 9-16, 2023

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, February 9 through 2pm Thursday, February 16, 2023

News Releases

*February 9- [HHS Releases Initial Guidance for Medicare Prescription Drug Inflation Rebate Program](#). *Under President Biden's prescription drug law, drug companies will pay rebates to the federal government for raising prescription drug prices faster than the rate of inflation. As part of President Biden's historic Inflation Reduction Act, the nation's new prescription drug law, for the first time ever, drug companies will pay rebates to Medicare when their prescription drug prices increase faster than the rate of inflation for certain drugs dispensed to people with Medicare.*

*February 9- [Letter to U.S. Governors from HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra on renewing COVID-19 Public Health Emergency \(PHE\)](#). Dear Governor, Thank you for your ongoing partnership throughout the COVID-19 response. I write today to inform you that effective February 11, 2023, I am renewing for 90 days the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) as declared under Section 319 of the Public Health Service Act. Based on current trends regarding COVID-19, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is planning for this to be the final renewal and for the COVID-19 PHE to end on May 11, 2023. Rather than 60 days' notice, I am providing 90 days' notice before the COVID-19 PHE ends to give you and your communities ample time to transition.

*February 10- [CMS Roundup \(Feb. 10, 2023\)](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is providing an at-a-glance summary of news from around the agency.

*February 13- [Biden-Harris Administration Continues Unprecedented Efforts to Increase Transparency of Nursing Home Ownership](#). *Proposed rule would require disclosure of additional ownership and management information to shine a light on private equity ownership Administration seeking to implement Section 6101(a) of the Affordable Care Act. As President Biden made clear in his second State of the Union address, the Biden-Harris Administration is unwavering in its commitment to improve the safety and quality of care in the nation's nursing homes. Over the past year, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has taken*

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historic actions to deliver on the President’s call to action and ensure seniors and people with disabilities get the reliable, high-quality care they deserve.

*February 14- [HHS Secretary Responds to the President’s Executive Order on Drug Prices](#). *Action announces new models and supports access to \$2 generic drugs.* Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced that the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has selected three new models for testing by the CMS Innovation Center to help lower the high cost of drugs, promote accessibility to life-changing drug therapies, and improve quality of care. The Secretary released a report describing these three models to respond to President Biden’s Executive Order 14087, “Lowering Prescription Drug Costs for Americans,” which complements the historic provisions in the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (IRA) that will lower prescription drug costs.

*February 15- [CMS Proposes Benefit Expansion for Mobility Devices, Advancing Health Equity for People with Disabilities](#). *Proposal supports coverage of power seat elevation equipment for power wheelchairs.* Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released a proposed National Coverage Determination (NCD) decision that would, for the first time, expand coverage for power seat elevation equipment on certain power wheelchairs to Medicare individuals. The proposed NCD is open for public comment for 30 days.

Fact Sheets

*February 9- [Fact Sheet: COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Transition Roadmap](#). Based on current COVID-19 trends, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is planning for the federal Public Health Emergency (PHE) for COVID-19, declared under Section 319 of the Public Health Service (PHS) Act, to expire at the end of the day on May 11, 2023. Our response to the spread of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, remains a public health priority, but thanks to the Administration’s whole of government approach to combatting the virus, we are in a better place in our response than we were three years ago, and we can transition away from the emergency phase.

*February 13- [Disclosures of Ownership and Additional Disclosable Parties Information for Skilled Nursing Facilities and Nursing Facilities — Proposed Rule](#). On February 13, 2023, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) placed on display at the Federal Register a proposed rule that would implement portions of section 6101 of the Affordable Care Act, which require the disclosure of certain ownership, managerial, and other information regarding Medicare skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) and Medicaid nursing facilities (hereafter occasionally referenced collectively as “nursing homes”).

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Blog

*February 13- [OCR Honors Black History Month](#). By: [Melanie Fontes Rainer](#), Director for Office for Civil Rights (OCR). Summary: *The HHS Office for Civil Rights honors Black History Month, and our enforcement of federal civil rights laws that ensure nondiscrimination.* As we mark Black History Month, we recognize the role of the HHS Office for Civil Rights (OCR), which has deep roots in enforcing federal civil rights laws that ensure nondiscrimination based on race, color, and national origin.

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