



CMS Snapshot

February 20-27, 2020

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, February 20 through 2pm Thursday, February 27, 2020.

News Releases

*February 21- [HHS Issues Strategy to Improve Care for Patients by Reducing Clinician Burdens](#).

As part of the ongoing efforts to strengthen the relationship between patients and their doctors, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) today issued the *Strategy on Reducing Regulatory and Administrative Burden Relating to the Use of Health IT and EHRs*.

*February 24- [Speech: Remarks by CMS Administrator Seema Verma at the National Association of Healthcare Underwriters \(NAHU\) Capitol Conference 2020](#). “Thank you for having me. Going back to my time in Indiana designing health care plans, I have always valued the knowledge and expertise that agents and brokers bring to the table, because they have front line experience. In this town, policy experts are a dime a dozen, but you all understand the healthcare system in a more concrete way. You see the impact of policy and know how it affects real people. Many of these people are our Medicare and exchange beneficiaries, and they rely on you to direct them to coverage that meets their health needs and those of their families.”

*February 25- [Speech: Remarks by CMS Administrator Seema Verma at the 2020 CMS Quality Conference](#). “Thank you. It hardly seems like a year since we unveiled CMS’ 16 strategic initiatives. I couldn’t be prouder or more thankful for the hard work of the CMS team, and the efforts of all of you in the audience. As we work on these initiatives, we are also quantifying and measuring our progress and have identified objectives and key results for each to hold ourselves accountable.”

*February 26- [HHS Awards \\$117 Million to End the HIV Epidemic in the United States](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), awarded approximately \$117 million to expand access to HIV care, treatment, medication, and prevention services. This investment is a critical component of the Administration's [Ending the HIV Epidemic: A Plan for America \(EHE\)](#) initiative, which aims to reduce the number of new HIV infections in the United States by 90 percent by 2030.

*February 27- [HHS Appoints Former Kansas Governor Jeff Colyer Chair of the National Advisory Committee on Rural Health and Human Services](#). Today, HHS Secretary Alex Azar announced the appointment of former Kansas Governor Jeff Colyer, to serve as Chair of the National Advisory Committee on Rural Health and Human Services (NACRHHS).

*February 27- [CMS Selects Applicants for Participation in Innovative Payment Model with New Emergency Treatment and Transport Options](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is announcing the selection of 205 applicants to participate in the Emergency Triage, Treat, and Transport (ET3) Model, a payment model that aims to allow beneficiaries to access the most appropriate emergency services at the right time and place. The voluntary, five-year payment model will provide greater flexibility to ambulance care teams to address emergency health care needs of Medicare Fee-for-Service beneficiaries following a 911 call.

Fact Sheets

*February 20- [Comprehensive Care for Joint Replacement Model Three Year Extension and Changes to Episode Definition and Pricing \(CMS 5529 P\)](#). On February 20, 2020, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a proposed rule in the Federal Register (<https://www.federalregister.gov/public-inspection/current>) which proposes a three-year extension and changes to the episode definition and pricing in the Comprehensive Care for Joint Replacement (CJR) Model.

Blogs

*February 21- [Medicare Part B enrollment: There's still time to sign up!](#) Most people get Medicare Part B (Medical Insurance) when they turn 65. If you didn't sign up for Part B then, now's the time to decide if you want to enroll. During **Medicare's General Enrollment Period (January 1–March 31)**, you can enroll in Part B and your coverage will start July 1.

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