



## CMS Snapshot

**February 23-March 2, 2023**

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, February 23 through 2pm Thursday, March 2, 2023

### News Releases

\*February 24- [CMS Roundup \(Feb 24, 2023\)](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is providing an at-a-glance summary of news from around the agency.

\*February 27- [HHS Announces New Divisions Within the Office for Civil Rights to Better Address Growing Need of Enforcement in Recent Years](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, through the Office for Civil Rights (OCR), announced the formation of a new Enforcement Division, Policy Division, and Strategic Planning Division. As HHS' law enforcement agency, OCR enforces 55 civil rights, conscience and privacy statutes, including the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1966 (HIPAA) and the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act of 2009--investigates complaints, conducts compliance reviews, develops policy, promulgates regulations, provides technical assistance, and educates the public about federal civil rights, privacy, and conscience laws.

\*February 27- [Departments of Labor and Health and Human Services Announce New Efforts to Combat Exploitative Child Labor](#). *Announcements Include New Inter-Agency Child Labor Task Force*. Since 2018, the Department of Labor has seen a 69 percent increase in children being employed illegally by companies. In the last fiscal year, the department found 835 companies it investigated had employed more than 3,800 children in violation of labor laws. The maximum civil monetary penalty under current law for a child labor violation is \$15,138 per child. That's not high enough to be a deterrent for major profitable companies.

\*March 1- [Statement from HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra on Action to Lower Insulin Costs](#). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra released the following statement today on the news that after [President Biden called for extending the \\$35 cap](#) on insulin to all Americans so that everyone can afford it, the nation's largest insulin manufacturer is lowering their price for insulin by 70% and capping patient out-of-pocket costs at \$35 or less per month.

For more information, please email [partnership@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:partnership@cms.hhs.gov)

\*March 1- [HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra’s Statement on Women’s History Month](#). Today, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra released the following statement in honor of Women’s History Month, celebrated every year in the United States throughout the month of March, and in recognition of International Day of Women on March 8, 2023.

## Fact Sheet

\*February 27- [CMS Waivers, Flexibilities, and the Transition Forward from the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency](#). Based on current COVID-19 trends, the Department of Health and Human Services is planning for the federal Public Health Emergency for COVID-19 (PHE), declared under Section 319 of the Public Health Service Act, to expire at the end of the day on May 11, 2023. 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 an emergency phase.

## Blogs

\*February 24- [ICYMI: 2025 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee Holds First Meeting](#).  
*By: [Edward McCarthy](#), Public Affairs Specialist within OASH Office of Health Promotion and Disease Prevention* Summary: This blog provides an overview of the events of the first meeting of the Dietary Guidelines Committee on February 9th and 10th, 2023. *Rockville, Md.* – ICYMI: On February 9 and 10, the newly announced 2025 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee convened for its first official meeting.

\*February 28- [For Some People with Rare Diseases, Plasma Donations Are Life Saving](#).  
*By: [Rachel Levine, M.D.](#), Assistant Secretary for Health (ASH)* Summary: Giving source plasma can help people with rare diseases live fuller lives. On Rare Disease Day, learn more about how this donation works. According to the National Institutes of Health, one in 10 Americans lives with a rare disease, which is a disease affecting fewer than 200,000 people. Rare diseases are found across the medical spectrum—from conditions affecting the heart, blood, lungs, and kidneys to neurological and neuromuscular, metabolic, skin diseases, as well as bone and skeletal disorders.

\*March 1- [CMS Drug Spending Dashboards and the Inflation Reduction Act](#), *Allison Oelschlaeger, CMS Chief Data Officer and Director of the Office of Enterprise Data & Analytics and Meena Seshamani, MD, PhD, CMS Deputy Administrator and Director of the Center for Medicare*. Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services released the annual update to the Drug Spending Dashboards with data for 2021. These dashboards are interactive, online tools that allow consumers, researchers, policymakers, and other stakeholders to understand

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changes in spending on prescription drugs in the [Medicare Part B](#), [Medicare Part D](#) and [Medicaid](#) programs. Today's release represents the seventh annual update to the Drug Spending Dashboards. Since the first release of the dashboards in 2015, CMS has continued to enhance and expand the dashboards to provide greater transparency into drug spending trends.

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