



CMS Snapshot

April 8-15, 2021

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, April 8 through 2pm Thursday, April 15, 2021.

News Releases

*April 8- [CMS Selects Value in Opioid Use Disorder Treatment Demonstration Applicants](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced the selected applicants for the Value in Opioid Use Disorder Treatment Demonstration, also known as the Value in Treatment Demonstration. Starting in April 2021, this 4-year demonstration tests whether a new care management fee and performance-based incentive for opioid use disorder (OUD) treatment services can cut hospitalizations and improve health outcomes for individuals with OUD.

*April 9- [Statement by HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra on the President's FY 2022 Discretionary Funding Request](#). The Biden Administration today submitted to Congress the President's priorities for Fiscal Year 2022 (FY 2022) discretionary spending. The funding request invests in the core foundations of our country's strength and advances key HHS priorities, including public health preparedness, health equity, biomedical research, reducing maternal mortality and morbidity, and ending the opioid crisis.

*April 12- [HHS Marks Black Maternal Health Week by Announcing Measures To Improve Maternal Health Outcomes](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) marked Black Maternal Health Week by announcing actions to expand access to continuous health care coverage and access to preventative care in rural areas to improve maternal health outcomes. HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra announced that Illinois is the first state to provide continuity of full Medicaid benefit coverage for mothers by offering extended eligibility for a woman during the entire first year after delivery.

*April 13- [New Legal Guidance and Resources to Ensure -- and Expand -- Access to COVID-19 Vaccines for People with Disabilities and Older Adults](#). As part of a shared commitment to President Biden's [National Strategy - PDF](#) and [Executive Order](#) to ensure an equitable COVID-19 response, the Office for Civil Rights (OCR), the Administration for Community Living (ACL), and the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) have published several new resources to help states,

vaccination providers, and others leading COVID-19 response activities improve access to vaccines for people with disabilities and older adults. These resources clarify legal requirements, illustrate some of the barriers to vaccine access faced by people with disabilities and older people, and provide strategies – and examples of how the aging and disability network can help employ them – to ensure accessibility.

*April 13- [Readout of the Second COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force Meeting](#). On Friday, COVID-19 Health Equity Chair, Dr. Marcella Nunez-Smith convened the second COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force to discuss the Biden-Harris Administration's whole-of-society approach to mitigate the health inequities caused or exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and for preventing such inequities in the future. This meeting specifically covered vaccine access and confidence.

Fact Sheets

*April 8- [Fiscal Year \(FY\) 2022 Skilled Nursing Facility Prospective Payment System Proposed Rule \(CMS 1746-P\)](#). On April 8, 2021, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a proposed rule that would update Medicare payment policies and rates for skilled nursing facilities under the Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) prospective payment system (PPS) for fiscal year (FY) 2022. In addition, the proposed rule includes proposals for the SNF Quality Reporting Program (QRP), and the SNF Value-Based Program (VBP) for FY 2022. CMS is publishing this proposed rule consistent with the legal requirements to update Medicare payment policies for SNFs on an annual basis. This fact sheet discusses the major provisions of the proposed rule.

*April 14- [Fact Sheet: Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Ensuring Access to Equitable, Affordable, Client-Centered, Quality Family Planning Services](#). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is proposing a new rule to revise the Title X family planning program regulations. The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM), entitled "Ensuring access to equitable, affordable, client-centered, quality family planning services" will be open for comment for 30 days starting Thursday, April 15, 2021. HHS welcomes public comment on this proposed rule.

Blogs

*April 12- LymeX: Applying Health+ for Patient-Powered Innovations. Innovation can be a vague term. In the context of Lyme disease, one may ask, "what does innovation mean?" As part of the [LymeX Innovation Accelerator](#) (LymeX), HHS is applying an established innovation approach to bring together diverse stakeholders and advance Lyme and tick-borne disease solutions.

CMS has developed a [Virtual Toolkit](#) to help you stay informed on CMS and HHS materials available on the COVID-19. Please share these materials, bookmark the page, and check back often for the most up-to-date information. For more information, please email partnership@cms.hhs.gov