



## CMS Snapshot

**April 9-16, 2020**

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, April 9 through 2pm Thursday, April 16, 2020.

### News Releases

\*April 9- [CMS News Alert April 9, 2020](#)- Here is a summary of recent Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) actions taken in response to the COVID-19 virus, as part of the ongoing White House Task Force efforts. To keep up with the important work the Task Force is doing in response to COVID-19, click here [www.coronavirus.gov](http://www.coronavirus.gov). For information specific to CMS, please visit the [CMS News Room](#) and [Current Emergencies Website](#). CMS updates these resources on an ongoing basis throughout the day; the information below is current as of April 9, 2020 at 2:30 p.m.

\*April 10- [HHS to Begin Immediate Delivery of Initial \\$30 Billion of CARES Act Provider Relief Funding](#). Today, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is beginning the delivery of the initial \$30 billion in relief funding to providers in support of the national response to COVID-19 as part of the distribution of the \$100 billion provider relief fund provided for in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act recently passed by Congress and signed by President Trump.

\*April 10- [Guidance for Application of the Human Subjects Protection Regulations to Actions Taken in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic](#). The HHS Office for Human Research Protections (OHRP) issued guidance on COVID-19 for investigators, institutional review boards, and institutions conducting human subjects research during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

\*April 11- [Trump Administration Announces Expanded Coverage for Essential Diagnostic Services Amid COVID-19 Public Health Emergency](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), together with the Departments of Labor and the Treasury, issued guidance today to ensure Americans with private health insurance have coverage of 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) diagnostic testing and certain other related services, including antibody testing, at no cost.

\*April 13- [HHS Announces New Ventilator Contracts, Orders Now Totaling Over 130,000 Ventilators](#). This week, the Department of Health and Human Services announced five new

contracts for ventilator production rated under the Defense Production Act (DPA), to General Electric, Hill-Rom, Medtronic, ResMed, and Vyair, as well as two other contracts for ventilator production, to Hamilton and Zoll.

\*April 13- [CMS News Alert April 13, 2020](#). Here is a summary of recent Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) actions taken in response to the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, as part of the ongoing White House Task Force efforts. To keep up with the important work the Task Force is doing in response to COVID-19, click here [www.coronavirus.gov](http://www.coronavirus.gov). For information specific to CMS, please visit the [CMS News Room](#) and [Current Emergencies Website](#). CMS updates these resources on an ongoing basis throughout the day; the information below is current as of April 13, 2020 at 11:30 a.m.

\*April 14- [The Administration for Children and Families to Release Funding to Support the Child Care and Development Block Grant](#). On March 27, the President signed a \$2 trillion emergency relief bill aimed at providing economic relief to the nation's families, workers, and businesses. The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act will provide the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) with \$6.3 billion in additional funding that will aid in the continuation of work protecting, supporting, and uplifting our vulnerable communities during this public health crisis.

\*April 14- [CMS News Alert April 14, 2020](#). Here is a summary of recent Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) actions taken in response to the COVID-19 virus, as part of the ongoing White House Task Force efforts. To keep up with the important work the Task Force is doing in response to COVID-19, click here [www.coronavirus.gov](http://www.coronavirus.gov). For information specific to CMS, please visit the [CMS News Room](#) and [Current Emergencies Website](#). CMS updates these resources on an ongoing basis throughout the day; the information below is current as of April 14, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

\*April 15- [HHS Awards \\$90 Million to Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Recipients for COVID-19 Response](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), awarded \$90 million for Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program recipients across the country to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). This funding is provided by the fiscal year 2020 Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, which President Trump signed into law on Friday, March 27, 2020.

\*April 15- [CMS Increases Medicare Payment for High-Production Coronavirus Lab Tests](#). Under President Trump's leadership, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) today announced Medicare will nearly double payment for certain lab tests that use high-throughput technologies to rapidly diagnose large numbers of 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) cases. This is another action the Trump Administration is taking to rapidly expand COVID-19 testing, particularly for those with Medicare, including nursing home residents who are among the most vulnerable to COVID-19 and most affected by COVID-19 outbreaks across the country.

\*April 16- [HHS Announces Ventilator Contract with GE Under Defense Production Act](#). This week, the Department of Health and Human Services announced a new contract for ventilator production rated under the Defense Production Act (DPA), to General Electric (GE), in partnership with Ford. GE's contract, at a total contract price of \$336 million, is for 50,000 ventilators to be produced by July 13. The rating of this contract under the DPA [follows President Trump's direction](#) to HHS Secretary Alex Azar on April 2 to invoke the Defense Production Act to help facilitate the supply of ventilator materials for American companies, including General Electric.

\*April 16- [OCR Resolves Civil Rights Complaint Against Pennsylvania After it Revises its Pandemic Health Care Triage Policies to Protect Against Disability Discrimination](#). Today, the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at the U.S Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is announcing that it has resolved a complaint filed against the Pennsylvania Department of Health (PDH) after PDH revised its Interim Pennsylvania Crisis Standards of Care for Pandemic Guidelines (CSC Guidelines) to ensure that persons will not be discriminated against based on disability if providers in the state were to begin triaging life-saving health care services. This is the second enforcement action OCR has taken since OCR [issued a Bulletin](#) reminding covered entities of the continued applicability of civil rights laws during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

\*April 16- [CMS News Alert April 16, 2020](#). Here is a summary of recent Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) actions taken in response to the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), as part of the ongoing White House Task Force efforts. To keep up with the important work the Task Force is doing in response to COVID-19, click here [www.coronavirus.gov](http://www.coronavirus.gov). For information specific to CMS, please visit the [CMS News Room](#) and [Current Emergencies Website](#). CMS updates these resources on an ongoing basis throughout the day; the information below is current as of April 16, 2020 at 10:15 a.m. ET.

## Fact Sheets

\*April 10- [Fiscal Year 2021 Hospice Payment Rate Update Proposed Rule CMS-1733-P](#). On April 10, 2020, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a proposed rule (CMS-1733-P) that would update fiscal year (FY) 2021 Medicare payment rates and the wage index for hospices serving Medicare beneficiaries. CMS is publishing this proposed rule consistent with the legal requirements to update Medicare payment policies for hospices on an annual basis. CMS recognizes that the entire healthcare system is focused on responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

\*April 10- [Fiscal Year 2021 Proposed Medicare Payment and Policy Changes for Inpatient Psychiatric Facilities \(CMS-1731-P\)](#). On April 10, 2020, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is proposing a rule that further advances our efforts to strengthen the Medicare

program by better aligning payments for inpatient psychiatric facilities (IPFs) with the costs of providing care. The proposed rule would update Medicare payment policies and rates for the IPF Prospective Payment System (PPS) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021.

\*April 10- [Fiscal Year 2021 Proposed Medicare Payment and Policy Changes for Skilled Nursing Facilities \(CMS-1737-P\)](#). On April 10, 2020, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a proposed rule [CMS-1737-P] for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 that updates the Medicare payment rates and the quality programs for skilled nursing facilities (SNFs). CMS is publishing this proposed rule consistent with the legal requirements to update Medicare payment policies for skilled nursing facilities on an annual basis.

## Blog

\*April 9- [Simple ways to use Marketplace coverage to improve your health](#). Now that you have Marketplace health coverage, learn what you can do to stay healthy and get the care you need.

*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](mailto:partnership@cms.hhs.gov)*