



## CMS Snapshot

### April 22-29, 2021

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, April 22 through 2pm Thursday, April 29, 2021.

#### News Releases

\*April 26- [HHS, National Partners Combine to Boost Black American Enrollment at HealthCare.gov](#). Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra announced commitments from national organizations to support Black American outreach and enrollment efforts during the Special Enrollment Period (SEP) made available on HealthCare.gov by President Biden due to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. Black Americans represent roughly 13% of the U.S. population but 16% of the uninsured.

\*April 27- [CMS proposes to enhance the medical workforce in rural and underserved communities to support COVID-19 recovery and beyond](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a proposed rule (CMS-1752-P) today for inpatient and long-term care hospitals that builds on the Biden Administration's key priorities to close health care equity gaps and provide greater accessibility to care. Major provisions in the proposed rule would fund medical residency positions in hospitals in rural and underserved communities to address workforce shortages, and require hospitals to report COVID-19 vaccination rates among their workers to contain the spread of the virus.

\*April 27- [HHS Releases New Buprenorphine Practice Guidelines, Expanding Access to Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder](#). In an effort to get evidenced-based treatment to more Americans with opioid use disorder, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is releasing new buprenorphine practice guidelines that among other things, remove a longtime requirement tied to training, which some practitioners have cited as a barrier to treating more people.

\*April 27- [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Announces Additional Biden Administration Staff Appointments](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced additional Biden Administration appointments: "The growing team at HHS is working tirelessly to end the COVID-19 pandemic and expand access to health care through President Biden's American Rescue Plan," said HHS Chief of Staff Sean McCluskie. "These

appointees, under the leadership of Secretary Xavier Becerra, bring diversity and years of experience to the crucial mission of ensuring Americans' health and wellbeing."

\*April 27- [HHS Announces \\$1 Billion from American Rescue Plan for Construction and Renovation Projects at Health Centers](#). Thanks to the American Rescue Plan, today the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is announcing the availability of \$1 billion for Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)-Health Center Program funded health centers to support major construction and renovation projects across the country. The funding builds on President Biden's commitment to ensuring equity in access to COVID-19 response efforts and high quality primary health care services.

\*April 27- [CMS proposes to enhance the medical workforce in rural and underserved communities to support COVID-19 recovery and beyond](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a proposed rule (CMS-1752-P) today for inpatient and long-term care hospitals that builds on the Biden Administration's key priorities to close health care equity gaps and provide greater accessibility to care. Major provisions in the proposed rule would fund medical residency positions in hospitals in rural and underserved communities to address workforce shortages, and require hospitals to report COVID-19 vaccination rates among their workers to contain the spread of the virus.

\*April 28- [Statement from HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra on First 100 Days and Joint Session of Congress](#). Tonight President Biden made clear that to build back a prosperous America, we need a healthy America. I share the President's commitment to meeting this critical moment to protect the health of our loved ones across the country and to continue building on the progress of the first 100 days to make historic investments in the health of our families and our children's future.

\*April 29- [Statement by HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra on FDA Tobacco Actions on Menthol Cigarettes and Flavored Cigars](#). Today the Food and Drug Administration announced the launch of proposed rule-making to remove menthol from cigarettes and flavor additives from cigars. This science-based decision reflects the Biden Administration's commitment to improve the health of all Americans and to tackle health disparities in our most marginalized communities. Tobacco-related death and disease must become a part of America's past. These public health measures will save lives.

\*April 29- [Statement from HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra on the Historic American Families Plan](#). American families who have been hit hard by COVID-19 deserve swift and impactful relief. Through the American Families Plan, the Biden-Harris Administration offers more families the peace of mind that relief is on its way.

## Fact Sheets

\*April 27- Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Medicare Hospital Inpatient Prospective Payment System (IPPS) and Long Term Care Hospital (LTCH) Rates Proposed Rule (CMS-1752-P). On April 27, 2021, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued the proposed rule for fiscal year (FY) 2022 Medicare Hospital Inpatient Prospective Payment System (IPPS) and Long Term Care Hospital (LTCH). The proposed rule would update Medicare payment policies and rates for operating and capital-related costs of acute care hospitals and for certain hospitals and hospital units excluded from the IPPS for FY 2022.

*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)*