



CMS Snapshot

April 30-May 7, 2020

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, April 30 through 2pm Thursday, May 7, 2020.

News Releases

*April 30- [CMS Announces Independent Commission to Address Safety and Quality in Nursing Homes](#). As a part of President Trump's Opening Up America Again effort, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced a new independent Commission that will conduct a comprehensive assessment of the nursing home response to the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

*May 1- [CMS News Alert May 1, 2020](#). Here is a summary of recent Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) actions taken in response to coronavirus disease 2019 (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. 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 May 1, 2020 at 12:00 p.m.

*May 1- [HHS Begins Distribution of Payments to Hospitals with High COVID-19 Admissions, Rural Providers](#). Today, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is processing payments from the Provider Relief Fund to hospitals with large numbers of COVID-19 inpatient admissions through April 10, 2020, and to rural providers in support of the national response to COVID-19.

*May 1- [COVID-19 Funding Available to Minority, Rural and Socially Vulnerable Communities for Linkages to Services, Information and Education](#). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Minority Health (OMH) announced a [competitive funding opportunity](#) to invest up to \$40 million for the development and coordination of a strategic network of national, state, territorial, tribal and local organizations to deliver important COVID-19-related information to racial and ethnic minority, rural and socially vulnerable communities hardest hit by the pandemic. The information network will strengthen efforts to link communities to

COVID-19 testing, healthcare and social services and to best share and implement effective response, recovery and resilience strategies.

*May 5- [OCR Issues Guidance on Covered Health Care Providers and Restrictions on Media Access to Protected Health Information about Individuals in Their Facilities](#). Today, the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at the U.S Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued additional guidance reminding covered health care providers that the HIPAA Privacy Rule does not permit them to give media and film crews access to facilities where patients' protected health information (PHI) will be accessible without the patients' prior authorization.

*May 5- [CMS News Alert May 5, 2020](#). Here is a summary of recent Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) actions taken in response to coronavirus disease 2019 (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. 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 May 5, 2020 at 10:30 a.m. ET.

*May 5- [Secretary Azar Statement on National Nurses Day](#). Wednesday, May 6, marks National Nurses Day, for which President Trump issued the first-ever Presidential Proclamation emphasizing the importance of the occasion. HHS Secretary Alex Azar issued the following statement to commemorate the day.

*May 6- [CMS News Alert May 6, 2020](#)- The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) recently released an Interim Final Rule with Comment Period (IFC) building on the agency's efforts to give the American healthcare system maximum flexibility to respond to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. Below is a summary of resources and information available on the rule. View the full rule [here](#). For more information on the White House Task Force response to COVID-19, visit www.coronavirus.gov. Additional information specific to CMS is available at the [CMS News Room](#) and [Current Emergencies Website](#).

*May 7- [HHS Extends Deadline for Attestation, Acceptance of Terms and Conditions for Provider Relief Fund Payments to 45 Days](#). The Department of Health and Human Services has extended the deadline for healthcare providers to attest to receipt of payments from the Provider Relief Fund and accept the [Terms and Conditions](#). Providers will now have 45 days, increased from 30 days, from the date they receive a payment to attest and accept the Terms and Conditions or return the funds. As an example, the initial 30-day deadline for providers who received payment on April 10, 2020, is extended to May 24 from May 9, 2020. With the extension, not returning the payment within 45 days of receipt of payment will be viewed as acceptance of the Terms and Conditions.

*May 7- [HHS Awards More than Half Billion Dollars Across the Nation to Expand COVID-19 Testing](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), awarded nearly \$583 million to 1,385 HRSA-

funded health centers in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and eight U.S. territories to expand COVID-19 testing. Nearly 88 percent of HRSA-funded health centers report testing patients, with more than 65 percent offering walk-up or drive-up testing. Health centers are currently providing more than 100,000 weekly COVID-19 tests in their local communities.

*May 7- [CMS News Alert May 7, 2020](#)- Here is a summary of recent Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) actions taken in response to coronavirus disease 2019 (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. 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 May 7, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. ET.

Blog

*May 1- [Medicare is here for your mental health](#). Medicare cares about your mental health and offers services to support you. Mental health conditions, like depression or anxiety, can happen at any time to anyone.

*May 1- [ACL Supports Family Caregiving During the COVID-19 Pandemic Response](#). Even under the best of circumstances, caregiving can be challenging. For many family caregivers, the routine tasks they perform on behalf of their loved ones are more complex because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Not only must family caregivers take extra steps to ensure their own health and wellbeing, but there are now additional protective considerations.

*May 5- [May is Osteoporosis Month—are your bones strong?](#) Are you doing what you can to keep your bones strong? Each year, more Americans are diagnosed with osteoporosis, a disease that causes bones to weaken and become more likely to break. Since you can't feel your bones getting weaker, you may not even know that you have this "silent" disease until you suffer a broken bone.

Items of Interest

*CMS Office of Minority Health- Deadline Extended to Review and Comment on Rural Maternal Health Care. The deadline has been extended to submit comments to a Request for Information (RFI) to seek public comments regarding rural maternal and infant health care. To review the RFI, please visit go.cms.gov/ruralhealth. CMS encourages all stakeholders to review the RFI at go.cms.gov/ruralhealth and submit comments to RuralMaternalRFI@cms.hhs.gov. Comments will be collected until Sunday, May 31 at 11:59pm ET.

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