



CMS Snapshot

May 7-14, 2020

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, May 7 through 2pm Thursday, May 14, 2020.

News Releases

*May 7- [HHS Deploys New Portable Dialysis Machines to New York for COVID-19 Response](#). This week, the Department of Health and Human Services deployed 50 portable kidney dialysis machines and supplies to New York City and Long Island Intensive Care Units (ICUs) to provide surge capacity for facilities caring for patients with COVID-19, which has caused acute kidney injury and therefore required dialysis in a share of ICU cases.

*May 7- CMS Announces Final Payment Notice for 2021 Coverage Year. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) today issued a final rule that continues the Trump Administration's efforts to promote affordability, improve consumer choice, ensure program integrity, and increase market stability. In response to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, CMS is also announcing today a one week extension of the Qualified Health Plan (QHP) certification and rate review timelines.

*May 8- [Secretary Azar Statement on Senate Confirmation of Brett Giroir to WHO Executive Board](#). On Thursday, the Senate confirmed Admiral Brett Giroir, M.D., to serve as the United States representative on the World Health Organization (WHO) Executive Board, in addition to his duties as Assistant Secretary for Health. HHS Secretary Alex Azar issued the following statement.

*May 9- [HHS announces shipments of donated remdesivir for hospitalized patients with COVID-19](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) announced the allocation plan for the drug remdesivir. The allocation is from a donation by Gilead Sciences, Inc. to the United States which was finalized on May 3, 2020. The donated doses of the treatment, which received an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, will be used to treat hospitalized COVID-19 patients in areas of the country hardest hit by the pandemic.

*May 11- [CMS News Alert May 11, 2020](#). As part of the ongoing White House Task Force efforts taken in response to coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), following is a summary of recent

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) actions. To keep up with the important Task Force work being done 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 11, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. ET.

*May 11- [CMS Builds on Commitment to Transform Healthcare Through Competition and Innovation](#). Today, the Trump Administration proposed changes for acute care and long term care hospitals that build on the progress made over the last three years and further the agency's priority to transform the healthcare delivery system through competition and innovation while providing patients with better value and results. The proposed rule would update Medicare payment policies for hospitals paid under the Inpatient Prospective Payment System (IPPS) and the Long-Term Care Hospital (LTCH) Prospective Payment System (PPS) for fiscal year 2021.

*May 13- [CMS News Alert May 13, 2020](#). As part of the ongoing White House Task Force efforts taken in response to coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), following is a summary of recent Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) actions. To keep up with the important Task Force work being done 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 13, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. ET.

*May 13- [CMS Issues Nursing Homes Best Practices Toolkit to Combat COVID-19](#). Today, under the direction of President Trump, CMS released a new [toolkit](#) developed to aid nursing homes, Governors, states, departments of health, and other agencies who provide oversight and assistance to these facilities, with additional resources to aid in the fight against the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic within nursing homes. The toolkit builds upon previous actions taken by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), which provide a wide range of tools and guidance to states, healthcare providers and others during the public health emergency.

*May 13- [OCR Secures Agreement with West Virginia to Protect Persons in Recovery from Opioid Use Disorder from Discrimination on the Basis of Disability](#). Today, the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced that it has entered into a voluntary resolution agreement (VRA) with the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, protecting the rights of persons with disabilities, including persons in recovery from Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) to be free from discrimination in state child welfare programs. OCR investigated a complaint filed by an aunt and uncle who sought to adopt their young niece and nephew who were in the custody of West Virginia's Bureau of Children and Families Programs (BCF).

*May 13- [HHS Awards \\$15 Million to Support Telehealth Providers During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) awarded \$15 million to 159 organizations across five health workforce programs to increase telehealth capabilities in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. These awards demonstrate the Trump Administration's continued efforts and commitment to building a national telehealth infrastructure.

Fact Sheets

*May 11- [Fiscal Year \(FY\) 2021 Medicare Hospital Inpatient Prospective Payment System \(IPPS\) and Long Term Acute Care Hospital \(LTCH\) Proposed Rule \(CMS-1735-P\)](#). On May 11, 2020, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) proposed a rule that focuses the agency's efforts on a singular objective: transforming the healthcare delivery system through competition and innovation to provide patients with better value and results. The proposed rule would update Medicare payment policies for hospitals under the Inpatient Prospective Payment System (IPPS) and the Long-Term Care Hospital (LTCH) Prospective Payment System (PPS) for fiscal year 2021.

Blog

*May 7- [Marketplace coverage & prescriptions: What you need to know](#). All Marketplace plans cover prescription drugs. Fill any prescriptions you got from your doctor and take them as directed. Here are 3 things to know about filling prescriptions:

*May 8- [Make your mark & celebrate Older Americans Month](#). You can enrich your community this spring and all year long by sharing your invaluable experiences and talents with your family, friends, and neighbors. May is Older Americans Month. Medicare supports this year's theme of "Make Your Mark" by celebrating your very important contributions to society—from swapping stories with your family to volunteering in your community even if it's virtually—that add to your overall health and independence.

*May 12- [Stroke Awareness: What are the signs?](#) More than 800,000 strokes happen each year in the United States. Stroke is the fifth leading cause of death in the U.S. and is a major cause of serious disability for adults. A stroke is caused by blocked blood flow to the brain and can affect a person's speech, movement, memory, and more. It's important to know the signs of a stroke and get help quickly.

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](https://www.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