



CMS Snapshot

June 11-18, 2020

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, June 11 through 2pm Thursday, June 18, 2020.

News Releases

*June 12- [OCR Issues Guidance on How Health Care Providers Can Contact Former COVID-19 Patients About Blood and Plasma Donation Opportunities](#). Today, the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at the U.S Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued guidance on how the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) Privacy Rule permits covered health care providers to contact their patients who have recovered from COVID-19 to inform them about how they can donate their blood and plasma containing antibodies to help other patients with COVID-19.

*June 12- [HHS Finalizes Rule on Section 1557 Protecting Civil Rights in Healthcare, Restoring the Rule of Law, and Relieving Americans of Billions in Excessive Costs](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) finalized a rule under Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) that maintains vigorous enforcement of federal civil rights laws on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, age, and sex, and restores the rule of law by revising certain provisions that go beyond the plain meaning of the law as enacted by Congress. The final rule will also relieve the American people of approximately \$2.9 billion in undue and ineffective regulatory burdens over five years.

*June 14- [Secretary Azar statement on World Blood Donor Day](#). Sunday, June 14, marks World Blood Donor Day, which highlights the importance of blood donation while thanking the millions of people around the world who give blood. HHS Secretary Alex Azar released the following statement in commemoration of the day.

*June 15- [Albertsons Companies and Walmart Donate Their Dispensing Services to HHS to Support the Ending the HIV Epidemic Initiative](#). The [U.S. Department of Health & Human Services \(HHS\)](#) will further expand access to pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) HIV prevention medications by adding donated dispensing services from [Albertsons](#) and [Walmart](#) to the the [Ready, Set, PrEP](#) program beginning no later than July 30, 2020. The program allows uninsured patients to fill their prescriptions at no cost.

*June 18- [HHS Awards \\$107.2 Million to Grow and Train the Health Workforce](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), is announcing awards totaling \$107.2 million to 310 recipients to increase the health workforce in rural and underserved communities. Recipients across 45 states and U.S. territories received funding to improve the quality, distribution and diversity of health professionals serving across the country.

Fact Sheets

*June 16- [Fact Sheet: Explaining Operation Warp Speed](#). What's the goal? Operation Warp Speed (OWS) aims to deliver 300 million doses of a safe, effective vaccine for COVID-19 by January 2021, as part of a broader strategy to accelerate the development, manufacturing, and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics (collectively known as countermeasures).

*June 17- [Establishing Minimum Standards in Medicaid State Drug Utilization Review \(DUR\) and Supporting Value-Based Purchasing \(VBP\) for Drugs Covered in Medicaid, Revising Medicaid Drug Rebate and Third Party Liability \(TPL\) Requirements \(CMS 2482-P\) Fact Sheet](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released the proposed rule Establishing Minimum Standards in Medicaid State Drug Utilization Review (DUR) and Supporting Value-Based Purchasing (VBP) for Drugs Covered in Medicaid, Revising Medicaid Drug Rebate and Third Party Liability (TPL) Requirements (CMS 2482-P).

*June 17- [CMS Issues Proposed Rule to Empower Commercial Plans and States to Negotiate Payment for Innovative New Therapies Based on Patient Outcomes](#). As part of President Trump's longstanding commitment to lowering drug prices, today the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a proposed rule that would start to remove barriers to the development of payment models based on value for innovative new therapies. Therapies are coming to market today that fight disease in an entirely new way, including at the genetic level. While the impact of these therapies can be transformative, their costs are unprecedented.

Blog

*June 15- [Medicare Enrollment Periods: When to Sign Up](#). It's important for you to know when to sign up for Medicare or when to join a Medicare plan. Remember these times so you get the most out of your Medicare and avoid late enrollment penalties:

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