



CMS Snapshot

June 24-July 1, 2021

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, June 24 through 2pm Thursday, July 1, 2021.

ICYMI: Chiquita Brooks-LaSure, the Administrator for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), recently launched her official CMS Twitter account, [@BrooksLaSureCMS](#). Follow her on Twitter to find out more about CMS programs including Medicare, Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and the HealthCare.gov Health Insurance Marketplace.

News Releases

*June 25- [Readout of the Congressional Virtual Lyme Series](#). On Tuesday, June 22, Assistant Secretary for Health Dr. Rachel L. Levine, alongside members of Congress, highlighted the challenges to health equity because of climate-change-related health stressors, such as changing land-use patterns and warmer average temperatures.

"The growth of Lyme disease and other tick-borne illnesses is alarming," said Dr. Levine in keynote remarks. "Climate change is worsening the problem by expanding the geographic and seasonal distribution of ticks, which increases the risk of humans contracting Lyme and other tick-borne diseases. My office is embracing transformative innovation to accelerate scientific breakthroughs through cross-cutting collaboration and partnerships."

*June 28- [CMS Proposed Rule to Increase Americans' Access to Health Coverage for 2022](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) today proposed a series of provisions to follow through on President Biden's commitment to build on the Affordable Care Act (ACA), expand health coverage access and advance health equity. These provisions are the third installment of the payment notice for 2022.

*June 28- [CMS Announces Director of Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services announced Daniel Tsai as Deputy Administrator and Director of Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services (CMCS). With a record 80 million people receiving health coverage through Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), Tsai will lead the Center's efforts in addressing disparities in health equity and serving the needs of children, pregnant people, parents, seniors, and individuals with disabilities who rely on these essential programs. Daniel Tsai will start on July 6.

*June 28- [CMS to Improve Home Health Services for Older Adults and People with Disabilities](#).

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a proposed rule that accelerates the shift from paying for home health services based on volume, to a system that incentivizes value and quality. The rule also seeks feedback on ways to attain health equity for all patients through policy solutions, including enhancing reports on Medicare/Medicaid dual eligible, disability status, people who are LGBTQ+; religious minorities; people who live in rural areas; and people otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality.

*June 28- [HHS Announces Awardees of \\$250 Million to Fight COVID-19 and Improve Health Literacy Among Racial and Ethnic Minority and Vulnerable Communities](#).

Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Minority Health (OMH) announced \$250 million in grant awards to 73 local governments as part of a new, two-year initiative to identify and implement best practices for improving health literacy to enhance COVID-19 vaccination and other mitigation practices among underserved populations. The Advancing Health Literacy (AHL) to Enhance Equitable Community Responses to COVID-19 initiative is part of the Biden/Harris Administration's National Strategy for the COVID-19 Response and Pandemic Preparedness.

*June 29- [American Rescue Plan Lowers Health Insurance Costs for Americans Who May Have Lost Their Job](#).

As part of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) signed by President Biden, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is again lowering the cost of health insurance and opening more pathways for Americans to obtain affordable and comprehensive health coverage. Starting July 1, 2021, consumers who received or are approved to receive unemployment compensation for any week beginning in 2021 may be able to find even lower cost plans and save extra money on out-of-pocket expenses through HealthCare.gov.

*June 30- [HHS, ACF Award \\$1 Billion in ARP Funds to Head Start Programs Nationwide](#). The U. S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) through the Office of Head Start (OHS) at the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) is awarding \$1 billion in American Rescue Plan Act (ARP) funds to Head Start programs nationwide. These funds will help more than 1,500 local Head Start programs build back to fully operational, in-person comprehensive services this fall. This funding comes right in time for summer programming for nearly one third of Head Start programs across the country, and also supports vaccination of Head Start staff and families.

*July 1- [Oklahoma's Medicaid Expansion will Provide Access to Coverage for 190,000 Oklahomans](#).

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced today that approximately 190,000 individuals between the ages of 19-64 in Oklahoma are now eligible for health coverage, thanks to Medicaid expansion made possible by the Affordable Care Act (ACA). On June 1, 2021, the state began accepting applications, and to date, over 120,000 people have applied for and were determined eligible to receive coverage.

Fact Sheets

* June 28- [CMS Proposes Calendar Year 2022 Home Health Prospective Payment System Rate Update](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) took action to improve home health care for older adults and people with disabilities through a proposed rule that would accelerate the shift from paying for Medicare home health services based on volume to a system that pays for value and quality by proposing a nationwide expansion of the Home Health Value-Based Purchasing (HHVBP) Model. This rule also includes proposals and routine updates to the Medicare Home Health Prospective Payment System (HH PPS) and the home infusion therapy services payment rates for Calendar Year (CY) 2022, in accordance with existing statutory and regulatory requirements. This rule proposes to make permanent changes to the home health Conditions of Participation (CoP) that were implemented during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE).

* June 28- [Updating Payment Parameters, Section 1332 Waiver Implementing Regulations, and Improving Health Insurance Markets for 2022 and Beyond Proposed Rule](#). In the Updating Payment Parameters, Section 1332 Waiver Implementing Regulations, and Improving Health Insurance Markets for 2022 and Beyond proposed rule released today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) proposed standards for issuers, Exchanges, and Navigators. This rule is a continuation of the recent rulemaking process, as seen in [part 1](#) and [part 2](#) of the Health & Human Services (HHS) Notice of Benefit and Payment Parameters for 2022 final rule published on January 19 and May 5, 2021.

Blogs

* July 1- [Have a healthy summer with these 3 tips](#). Here's now you can use your Marketplace health insurance to help you stay healthy this summer.

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