



CMS Snapshot

June 25- July 2, 2020

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, June 25 through 2pm Thursday, July 2, 2020.

News Releases

*June 25- [CMS Ends Emergency Blanket Waiver for the Nursing Home Staffing Data Submission Requirement](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced plans to end the emergency blanket waiver requiring all nursing homes to resume submitting staffing data through the Payroll-Based Journal (PBJ) system by August 14, 2020. The PBJ system allows CMS to collect nursing home staffing information which impacts the quality of care residents receive.

*June 25- [CMS Issues Special Trends Report on Health Insurance Exchange Enrollment Data During COVID-19](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) today released a trends report that provides data on the number of individuals who signed up for coverage on HealthCare.gov through a special enrollment period (SEP) during the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. As a result of the economic disruption that followed COVID-19 outbreaks, many consumers experienced life changes—particularly related to employment—that allowed them to enroll in health coverage through the Exchange.

*June 26- [OCR Resolves Complaint with Tennessee After it Revises its Triage Plans to Protect Against Disability Discrimination](#). Today, the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at the U.S Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is announcing that it has reached an early case resolution with the state of Tennessee after it updated its crisis standards of care (“CSC”) plan to ensure that the criteria does not discriminate against persons based on disability or age. This is OCR’s fourth resolution with a state regarding disability discrimination concerns during COVID-19.

*June 26- [Assistant Secretary for Health Admiral Brett P. Giroir, M.D., Statement on Texas Community-Based Testing Sites 1.0 Extension](#). On Friday, the Department of Health and Human Services, in response to a request from the State of Texas, granted a 14-day extension of federal support for five Community-Based Testing Sites (CBTS) in Texas. In response, Assistant Secretary for Health Admiral Brett P. Giroir, M.D., issued the following statement.

*June 29- [Trump Administration Secures New Supplies of Remdesivir for the United States](#). On Monday, the Department of Health and Human Services announced an agreement to secure large supplies of the drug remdesivir for the United States from Gilead Sciences through September, allowing American hospitals to purchase the drug in amounts allocated by HHS and state health departments.

*June 30- [HHS Extends COVID-19 Testing Public-Private Partnership](#). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) will extend its partnership with national pharmacy and grocery retail chains CVS, Rite-Aid, Walgreens, Quest (through services at Walmart) and eTrueNorth (through services at Kroger, Health Mart, and Walmart) so they may continue to seamlessly provide Americans convenient access to COVID-19 testing. The partnership, which is part of the Community-Based Testing Program, has scaled up to more than 600 COVID-19 testing sites in 48 states and the District of Columbia. Approximately 70% of these testing sites are located in communities with moderate-to-high social vulnerability, as evidenced by their racial, and ethnic composition, and their housing, economic, language barrier, and similar considerations.

*June 30- [Trump Administration Re-Establishes Ready Reserve Corps as Part of the United States Public Health Service](#). Today, the Trump Administration recognized and thanked the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS) Commissioned Corps at its Headquarters, as the USPHS continues to deploy more than two-thirds of its force to support the fight against the COVID-19 public health emergency. Vice President Pence met with Commissioned Corps leadership to discuss the future of USPHS with the establishment of a trained and deployable Ready Reserve Corps to provide surge capacity to deploy clinical care and health professionals for both domestic and global response efforts.

*June 30- [CMS Proposes to Expand Coverage Policy for Transcatheter Edge-to-Edge Repair \(TEER\) for Patients with Mitral Valve Regurgitation](#). Today the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) proposed to update its national coverage policy for a procedure known as transcatheter edge-to-edge repair (TEER) of the mitral valve to include patients with functional mitral regurgitation (MR). TEER is a less invasive treatment option that involves clipping together a portion of the mitral valve leaflets for patients with a condition where their mitral valves do not close properly.

*July 2- [The Nation's Doctor to America: #COVIDStopsWithMe](#). The U.S. Surgeon General and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services today released a public service announcement (PSA) ahead of the Fourth of July weekend imploring Americans to take action and to remember: COVID Stops With Me. The PSA from Surgeon General VADM Jerome M. Adams, M.D., M.P.H., reminds everyone to do their part to stay healthy by following a few simple instructions that will in turn, help prevent the spread of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.

Fact Sheet

*June 25- [CMS Proposes Calendar Year 2021 Payment and Policy Changes for Home Health Agencies and Calendar Year 2021 Home Infusion Therapy Benefit](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a proposed rule [CMS-1730-P] that proposes routine updates to the home health payment rates for calendar year (CY) 2021, in accordance with existing statutory and regulatory requirements. This proposed rule also includes a proposal to make permanent the regulatory changes related to telecommunications technologies in providing care under the Medicare home health benefit beyond the expiration of the public health emergency (PHE) for the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.

Blog

*June 27- [HIV prevention is important — Medicare covers testing](#). Today is National HIV testing day. There are approximately 1.1 million people in the U.S. currently living with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). Getting medical care, support, and maintaining safe behaviors can help improve the health and lives of people living with HIV. Getting tested is also an important part of HIV prevention.

*June 30- [Get help with Medicare costs](#). If you have Medicare and you're facing challenges paying for health care, you may qualify for Medicare programs that can help you save money on drug and medical costs.

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