



CMS Snapshot

July 30-August 6, 2020

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, July 30 through 2pm Thursday, August 6, 2020.

News Releases

*July 30- [The Nation's Public Health Experts to America: Donate Plasma](#). Under the leadership of President Trump, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, through its top public health officials, today released a series of public service announcements (PSAs) and announced over \$8 million in digital, radio, and out-of-home advertisements to support a broader Trump Administration effort imploring Americans to donate their plasma and help save lives. The PSA campaign seeks to dramatically increase donations of convalescent plasma by the end of August in the whole-of-America fight against the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.

*July 31- [HHS, DOD Partner With Sanofi and GSK on Commercial-Scale Manufacturing Demonstration Project to Produce Millions of COVID-19 Investigational Vaccine Doses](#). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Department of Defense (DoD) today announced agreements with Sanofi and GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) to support advanced development including clinical trials and large-scale manufacturing of 100 million doses of a COVID-19 investigational adjuvanted vaccine.

*July 31- [HHS Details Multiple COVID-19 Testing Statistics as National Test Volume Surges](#). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) today announced that more than 59 million COVID-19 tests have now been completed nationally – averaging over 810,000 per day over the past seven days. Over the past month, the percentage of lab tests that were completed within three days was 45; over the last seven days, it was over 56.

*July 31- [HHS Secretary Azar Statement on Court Victory for President Trump's Drug-Pricing Agenda](#). On Friday, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit ruled that the Trump Administration and HHS had the legal authority to reduce payments by 28.5 percent for drugs purchased under the 340B discount program by hospital outpatient departments, reversing a decision by the lower court on HHS's 2017 action on this issue. HHS Secretary Alex Azar issued the following statement.

*July 31- [HHS Extends Application Deadline for Medicaid Providers and Plans to Reopen Portal to Certain Medicare Providers](#). As part of its ongoing efforts to provide financial relief to healthcare providers impacted by the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), today the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is announcing an application deadline extension for the Phase 2 general distribution to Medicaid, Medicaid managed care, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and dental providers. HHS also plans to allow certain Medicare providers who experienced challenges in the Phase 1 Medicare General Distribution application period a second opportunity to receive funding. Both groups will have until Friday, August 28, 2020 to apply.

*August 3- [Trump Administration Announces New Actions to Improve Access to Healthcare across America](#). On Monday, August 3, President Trump signed executive orders with the goal of improving healthcare in rural America, for seniors, and for all Americans, by expanding telehealth, modernizing regulations, and reforming payments.

*August 4- [HHS Secretary Alex Azar to Lead Delegation to Taiwan in First Visit by a U.S. HHS Secretary](#). In the coming days, U.S. Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Alex Azar will lead a delegation to Taiwan. This marks the first visit to Taiwan by an HHS Secretary, the first Cabinet member to visit in six years, and the highest level visit by a U.S. Cabinet official since 1979.

*August 4- [CMS Updates Medicare Payment Policies for Inpatient Rehabilitation Facilities](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is finalizing a Medicare payment rule that further advances our efforts to strengthen the Medicare program by better aligning payments for inpatient rehabilitation facilities.

*August 4- [CMS Announces a Temporary Policy for Premium Reductions](#). Today, as part of the agency's efforts to facilitate the nation's response to the coronavirus disease 2019 ("COVID-19") public health emergency (PHE), the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced a policy that will allow issuers to offer temporary premium reductions for individuals with 2020 coverage in the individual and small group markets.

*August 4- [Trump Administration Proposes Policies to Provide Seniors with More Choices and Lower Costs for Surgeries](#). As directed by President Trump's Executive Order on Protecting and Improving Medicare for Our Nation's Seniors, today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is proposing several policies that would give Medicare beneficiaries more choices in where they seek care and lower their out-of-pocket costs for surgeries.

*August 5- [HHS, DOD Collaborate With Johnson & Johnson to Produce Millions of COVID-19 Investigational Vaccine Doses](#). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Department of Defense (DoD) announced an agreement with the Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson, to demonstrate large-scale manufacturing and delivery of the company's COVID-19 vaccine candidate. Under the terms of the agreement, the federal government will own the resulting 100 million doses of vaccine.

*August 5- [CMS Approves New Hampshire’s State Relief and Empowerment Waiver](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Department of the Treasury, announced the approval of New Hampshire’s request to implement a section 1332 State Relief and Empowerment waiver (also referred to as a section 1332 waiver). Through this waiver, New Hampshire will run a state-based reinsurance program for plan years 2021 through 2025 to partially reimburse insurers for certain high-cost claims for consumers in the individual health insurance market.

*August 6- [HHS Awards Over \\$101 Million to Combat the Opioid Crisis](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Health and Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), awarded over \$101 million to combat substance use disorders (SUD) and opioid use disorders (OUD). The awards support 116 organizations in 42 states and the District of Columbia, with many targeting high-risk rural communities.

Fact Sheet

*July 31- [Fiscal Year 2021 Payment and Policy Changes for Medicare Skilled Nursing Facilities \(CMS-1737-F\)](#). On July 31, 2020, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a final rule [CMS-1737-F] for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 that updates the Medicare payment rates and the value-based purchasing program for skilled nursing facilities (SNFs). CMS is publishing this final rule consistent with the legal requirements to update Medicare payment policies for SNFs on an annual basis.

*August 3- [Proposed Policies for the Medicare Diabetes Prevention Program Expanded Model \(MDPP\) for the Calendar Year 2021 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule](#). On August 3, 2020, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued the Calendar Year (CY) 2021 Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) proposed rule, which proposes to revise certain MDPP policies during the remainder of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) and any future applicable 1135 waiver event.

*August 4- [Fiscal Year \(FY\) 2021 Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility \(IRF\) Prospective Payment System \(PPS\) \(CMS-1729-F\)](#). On August 4, 2020, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a final rule that updates Medicare payment policies and rates for facilities under the Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility (IRF) Prospective Payment System (PPS) for fiscal year (FY) 2021. CMS is publishing this final rule consistent with the legal requirements to update Medicare payment policies for IRFs on an annual basis. This final rule also includes making permanent the regulatory change to eliminate the requirement for physicians to conduct a post admission visit since much of the information is included in the pre-admission screening documentation.

*August 4- [CY 2021 Medicare Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System and Ambulatory Surgical Center Payment System Proposed Rule \(CMS-1736-P\)](#). On August 4, 2020, the Centers

for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) proposed policies that are consistent with the directives in President Trump's Executive Order, entitled "Protecting and Improving Medicare for Our Nation's Seniors," that aims to increase choice, lower patients' out-of-pocket costs, empower patients, and protect taxpayer dollars.

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