



CMS Snapshot

August 15- 22, 2024

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, August 15 through 2pm Thursday, August 22, 2024.

News Releases

*August 16- [MolDx Local Coverage Determination Statement](#). The Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) have carefully considered all the feedback received from interested parties regarding the MolDx: Molecular Testing for Solid Organ Allograft Rejection proposed local coverage determination (LCD).

*August 16- [Commemorating the 2nd Anniversary of the Biden-Harris Lower Cost Prescription Drug Law](#). Two years ago today, President Biden signed into law historic legislation to lower health care costs for millions of Americans. The Inflation Reduction Act, also known as the lower cost prescription drug law, created the first ever annual cap on out-of-pocket drug costs for people with Medicare, capped the cost of each covered insulin at \$35 per month, granted Medicare the power to directly negotiate drug prices, and made Affordable Care Act (ACA) marketplace plans more affordable, leading to the lowest uninsured rate in history.

*August 16- [Statement from Secretary Becerra on Disruptions in Availability of Blood Culture Media Bottles](#)- Our mission at HHS is to ensure the health and well-being of all Americans, which includes ensuring that Americans receive the care they need, and health providers and facilities have the tools necessary to do the job. We are aware of disruptions in the availability of BD BACTEC™ blood culture media bottles, which could impact clinical practices for health care providers and laboratories.

*August 16- [HHS Strengthens Head Start by Requiring Higher Wages for Staff](#)- Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), announced a new final rule to strengthen Head Start's ability to recruit and retain qualified staff, improve teacher wages and benefits, and provide consistent quality programming for the children and families they serve.

*August 16- [HHS Assistant Secretary for Health ADM Rachel Levine Statement Marking the 2-year Anniversary of the Inflation Reduction Act and its Benefits to the Climate and Health Sector](#)- Today marks the two-year anniversary of the signing of the Inflation Reduction Act, a

landmark investment in climate protection. The Inflation Reduction Act is accelerating our progress toward President Biden and Vice President Harris' ambitious climate goals, which include building resiliency and reducing emissions in our health sector.

*August 19- [HHS Launches National Public Education Campaign Ahead of Respiratory Virus Season](#)- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) launched a new national campaign today to inform the public about common respiratory viruses and available vaccines. The campaign, [Risk Less. Do More.](#), aims to increase awareness of vaccines that reduce serious illness from influenza (flu), COVID-19, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) in high-risk populations and to limit the spread of these viruses among all Americans.

*August 20- [Biden-Harris Administration Announces More Than \\$1.4 Billion to Provide Lifesaving HIV Medications and Health Care Services to Individuals with HIV with Low Incomes](#)- Today, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), announced more than \$1.4 billion in Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program funding for the HRSA AIDS Drug Assistance Program and related awards.

*August 21- [HHS Office for Civil Rights Celebrates the 28th Anniversary of Health Information Privacy and Security Law - HIPAA](#)- Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office for Civil Rights (OCR) celebrates the 28th anniversary of the signing of the [Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996](#) (better known as “HIPAA”).

*August 22- [IHS Celebrates World Water Week and Sanitation Facilities Efforts with Five Events across Indian Country](#)- During World Water Week from August 25–29, the Indian Health Service is hosting events across Indian Country to highlight successful projects funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and to recognize the importance of improving water and sanitation infrastructure in tribal communities. These events will also celebrate the 65th anniversary of the IHS Sanitation Facilities Construction Program (SFC) and its unique and successful history.

Fact Sheet

*August 15- [Medicare Drug Price Negotiation Program: Negotiated Prices for Initial Price Applicability Year 2026](#). In August 2022, President Biden signed the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (P.L. 117-169) into law. The law makes improvements to Medicare by expanding benefits, lowering drug costs, and improving the sustainability of the Medicare program for generations to come. The law provides meaningful financial relief for millions of people with Medicare by improving access to affordable treatments and strengthening Medicare, both now and in the long run.

Blogs

*August 16-[Two Years of Lower Prescription Drug Costs](#). By: [Andrea Palm](#), Deputy Secretary Department of Health and Human Services. Summary: The Biden-Harris Administration

celebrates the 2nd Anniversary of the Inflation Reduction Act. Today marks the second anniversary of the Inflation Reduction Act, and it's clear how much progress the Biden-Harris Administration has made since the law was signed on August 16, 2022.

*August 21- [Change Story: Christina Balance](#). By: [Christina V. Ballance](#), Executive Director, National Labor and Employee Relations Office Department of Health and Human Services. Summary: Christina V. Balance reflects on her Cuban roots and commitment to transforming HHS by fostering inclusive labor-management relations and collaboration.

*August 21- [Cybersecurity and Physical Security Go Hand-in-Hand](#). By: [Melanie Fontes Rainer](#), Director for Office for Civil Rights (OCR). Summary: OCR Director's overview on the latest OCR cybersecurity newsletter addressing HIPAA Security Rule Facility Access Controls.

*August 22- [Mark your calendar with key Open Enrollment dates](#).