



## CMS Snapshot

**August 18-25, 2022**

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, August 18 through 2pm Thursday, August 25, 2022

### News Releases

\*August 18- [As American Families Prepare for Back-To-School, Biden-Harris Administration Strengthens Access to High-Quality, Comprehensive Health Care for Children](#). *In support of President Biden's effort to address the nation's mental health crisis, HHS issues guidance to states on ways to expand mental health care for children, and proposes requirements for states to report certain health care quality measures for children and adults.* Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), announced three key actions to strengthen and expand access to high-quality, comprehensive health care for children across the country. These actions are part of HHS' ongoing efforts to support President Joe Biden's call to address the nation's mental health crisis, including its impact on children.

\*August 18- [CMS Releases Proposed Rule to Improve Medicaid & CHIP Quality Reporting Across States](#). *Proposed rule details mandatory reporting requirements to standardize Medicaid and CHIP quality measures nationally and promote health equity.* The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) today released a notice of proposed rulemaking to promote consistent use of nationally standardized quality measures in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). This will help identify gaps and health disparities among the millions of people enrolled in these programs.

\*August 22- [CMS Encourages States to Use Medicaid Payments to Nursing Homes to Drive Better Health Outcomes for Residents, Improving Staffing](#). *In support of President Biden's plan to improve the nation's nursing homes, CMS outlines actions for states to improve safety and quality of care for residents.* Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued an informational bulletin detailing actions that states can take using existing Medicaid authorities to drive better health outcomes for nursing home residents and improve staff pay, training, and retention efforts. The informational bulletin – issued by CMS' Centers for Medicaid

and CHIP Services (CMCS) – also provides examples of current state Medicaid initiatives to support this work.

\*August 22- [HHS Expands Home and Community Based Services in Five New States and Territories for Older Adults and People with Disabilities](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), awarded approximately \$25 million in planning grants to five new states and territories to expand access to home and community-based services (HCBS) through Medicaid’s Money Follows the Person (MFP) demonstration program. With these awards, 41 states and territories across the country will now participate in MFP.

\*August 22- [Statement by HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra on Upcoming Departure of Dr. Anthony S. Fauci](#). Today, Anthony S. Fauci, M.D. [announced](#) he is stepping down in December 2022 from the positions of Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) and Chief of the NIAID Laboratory of Immunoregulation, as well as Chief Medical Advisor to the President. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra issued the following statement: “This is a decision we all knew would eventually come but hoped never would. As HHS Secretary, I am privileged to know Dr. Fauci professionally and personally and deeply admire his decades of public service that have undoubtedly improved the health of millions of people globally. When I arrived at HHS, the world was one year into the COVID-19 pandemic. I quickly came to rely on Dr. Fauci’s wisdom and counsel in our response, and along with his scientific acumen, I treasure his ability to break down complex science in simple terms to the American people to save lives...”

\*August 23- [OCR Settles Case Concerning Improper Disposal of Protected Health Information](#). Today, the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at the Department of Health and Human Services announced a settlement with New England Dermatology P.C., d/b/a New England Dermatology and Laser Center (“NDEL”), over the improper disposal of protected health information, a potential violation of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Privacy Rule. As a result, NEDLC paid \$300,640 to OCR and agreed to implement a corrective action plan to resolve this investigation. NEDLC is located in Massachusetts and provides dermatology services.

\*August 23- [HHS Secretary Becerra Announces More Than \\$20 Million in Funding to End HIV Epidemic](#). Today, at the National Ryan White Conference on HIV Care and Treatment, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra announced more than \$20 million in funding to expand HIV prevention, testing, and treatment services at health centers nationwide. The funding – awarded by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to 64 health centers – is part of HHS’ [Ending the HIV Epidemic in the U.S. \(EHE\)](#) initiative, which aims to reduce the number of new HIV infections in the U.S. by 90 percent by 2030.

## Blogs

\*August 19- [2022 Civic Digital Fellows with HHS InnovationX](#). By: [Caroline Fong](#), Civic Digital Fellows with the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, [Jaxon Silva](#), Civic Digital Fellows with the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, [Atherv Gole](#), Civic Digital Fellows with the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, [Ella Kim](#), Civic Digital Fellows with the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and [Kristen Honey, PhD, PMP](#), Chief Data Scientist, Executive Director of InnovationX, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health (OASH), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Almost 100 [Civic Digital Fellows](#) joined federal agencies this summer through a competitive fellowship program, which is coordinated by Harvard University and open to U.S. undergraduate and master's students across the nation. This is a pipeline for young technologists to join federal agencies for 10-weeks and experience public service through "civic tech service."

\*August 22- [Centers For Medicare & Medicaid Services Staffing to Inform Minimum Staffing Requirements for Nursing Homes](#) By: [Pauline Karikari-Martin PhD, MPH, MSN, PHNA-BC, RN](#) Senior Nurse Researcher and [Cameron Ingram, MFA](#) Policy Analyst of the Center for Clinical Standards and Quality. In February 2022, President Biden announced a comprehensive set of reforms to improve the safety and quality of nursing home care, hold nursing homes accountable for the care they provide, and make the quality of care and facility ownership more transparent so that potential residents and their loved ones can make informed care choices. One key initiative within the President's strategy is to establish new minimum staffing requirements so every nursing home has sufficient staff who are adequately trained to provide the safe and quality care residents need. Evidence has shown that adequate staffing is closely linked to the quality of care residents receive.

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