



## CMS Snapshot

### September 26-October 3, 2024

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, September 26 through 2pm Thursday, October 3, 2024.

#### News Releases

\*September 26- [Remarks by Secretary Xavier Becerra at the 2024 UN General Assembly High-Level Meeting on Antimicrobial Resistance](#). *Xavier Becerra September 26, 2024 2024 UN General Assembly New York, NY.* On September 26, 2024, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra joined leaders from across the world in New York, NY for the 2024 UN General Assembly. Below are Secretary Becerra's remarks, as prepared and delivered at the High-Level Meeting on Antimicrobial Resistance.

\*September 26- [Readout of HHS Hispanic Health Summit](#). *Secretary Becerra highlights the Biden-Harris Administrations Efforts to Advance Health Equity for the Latino Community in Remarks.* On Wednesday, September 25, 2024, in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Hispanic Health Summit.

\*September 26- [HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra Declares Public Health Emergency, ASPR Deploys Personnel to Florida to Respond to Hurricane Helene](#). *Emergency personnel will augment state and local response efforts.* Today, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra declared a Public Health Emergency (PHE) for Florida to address the health impacts of Hurricane Helene and the Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR) deployed approximately 150 responders, along with medical equipment and supplies, to help protect the delivery of health care services in the storm's path.

\*September 27- [CMS Announces Resources and Flexibilities to Assist with the Public Health Emergency in the States of Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, Tennessee, and South Carolina](#). *CMS Announces Resources and Flexibilities to Assist with the Public Health Emergency in the States of Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, Tennessee, and South Carolina.* The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced today additional resources and flexibilities available in response to Hurricane Helene in Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, Tennessee, and South Carolina. CMS is working closely with the states of Florida, Georgia, North Carolina,

Tennessee and South Carolina to put these flexibilities in place to ensure those affected by this natural disaster have access to the care they need – when they need it most.

\*September 27- [Medicare Advantage and Medicare Prescription Drug Programs to Remain Stable as CMS Implements Improvements to the Programs in 2025. \(Spanish version\)](#) Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced that average premiums, benefits, and plan choices for Medicare Advantage (MA) and the Medicare Part D prescription drug program will remain stable in 2025. Average premiums are projected to decline in both the MA and Part D programs from 2024 to 2025. Enhancements adopted in the [2025 MA and Part D Final Rule](#), as well as payment policy updates in the [2025 MA and Part D Rate Announcement](#), support this stability and increase enrollee protections and access to care for people with Medicare.

\*September 27- [Readout of Secretary Becerra’s Meeting with WHO and Africa CDC on Mpox.](#) On Thursday, September 26, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra alongside HHS, Department of State (DOS), and U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) leadership, hosted a meeting with World Health Organization (WHO) Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus and Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) Director General Jean Kaseya to discuss the current mpox outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

\*September 27- [HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra Declares Public Health Emergency for Georgia, Additional ASPR Personnel and Resources Deployed to the Region in Response to Hurricane Helene.](#) *Emergency personnel will augment state and local response efforts.* Today, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra declared a [Public Health Emergency \(PHE\)](#) for Georgia to address the health impacts of Hurricane Helene following yesterday’s announcement of a [PHE for Florida](#). To date, the Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response has pre-positioned approximately 200 medical providers and disaster management professionals in Florida, Alabama, with additional personnel in route to North Carolina, to address the potential health impacts of Hurricane Helene.

\*September 27- [During National Diaper Needs Awareness Week, \\$15.9 Million in Support for the Diaper Distribution Pilot Announced.](#) Today, HHS’ Administration for Children and Families’ (ACF), through its Office of Community Services, announced the fourth cohort of grant recipients of the Diaper Distribution Demonstration and Research Pilot, also known as the Diaper Distribution Pilot. This fourth funding release comes during National Diaper Need Awareness Week and will support a new cohort of seven grant recipients with a total of \$8.4 million in awards that will expand diaper distribution and additional wraparound support services for caregivers in six states and one tribe.

\*September 27- [HHS Adopts New Rules for Federal Financial Assistance \(2 CFR Part 200\) to Make Grants More Accessible and Transparent.](#) Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Office of Grants in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for

Financial Resources, announced the publication of an [Interim Final Rule \(IFR\)](#) that implements the 2024 Revisions to the Uniform Administrative Requirements for Federal Financial Assistance (Uniform Guidance) at 2 CFR part 200 ([89 FR 30046 - PDF](#)). [According to the GAO](#), HHS is the largest grant-making agency in the Federal government. HHS adoption of 2 CFR part 200 is an important step to align with other Federal agencies and reduce administrative burden for the financial assistance community.

\*September 29- [HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra Declares Public Health Emergency for North Carolina](#). *ASPR emergency personnel prepared to augment state and local response efforts.* Today, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra declared a [Public Health Emergency \(PHE\)](#) for North Carolina to address the health impacts of Hurricane Helene. This follows recent announcements of PHE declarations for [Florida](#) and [Georgia](#). The Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR) is repositioning equipment and personnel to North Carolina to address the potential health impacts of Hurricane Helene.

\*September 30- [Biden-Harris Administration Announces \\$68.5 Million Awarded for Behavioral Health Education, Training and Community Programs](#). *Providing critical funding to support of President Biden's Unity Agenda for the Nation.* The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), recently awarded \$68.5 million in grants that support behavioral health education, training and community programs to help address mental health and substance use conditions in support of the President's [Unity Agenda](#) for the Nation.

\*September 30- [HHS Announces Cost Savings for 54 Prescription Drugs Thanks to the Medicare Inflation Rebate Program Established by the Biden-Harris Administration's Lower Cost Prescription Drug Law](#). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), today announced that some Medicare enrollees will pay less for 54 drugs available through Medicare Part B. The drugs will have a lowered Part B coinsurance rate from October 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024, since drug companies raised prices for each of these 54 drugs faster than the rate of inflation.

\*September 30- [HHS Finalizes Federal Health IT Strategy to Drive Systemic Improvements in Health and Care](#). *2024-2030 Federal Health IT Strategic Plan Now Available to Guide Federal Use of Health IT.* The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Assistant Secretary for Technology Policy/Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (hereafter ASTP), today published the [final 2024-2030 Federal Health IT Strategic Plan - PDF](#) in accordance with the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH Act.)

\*September 30- [HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra declares public health emergency for South Carolina and Tennessee after Hurricane Helene](#). *ASPR medical teams boosting health care services in North Carolina in aftermath of storm.* Today, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra declared a [Public Health Emergency \(PHE\)](#) for South

Carolina and Tennessee to address the health impacts of Hurricane Helene. This follows recent announcements of PHE declarations for [Florida](#), [Georgia](#), and [North Carolina](#).

\*October 1- [Statement by U.S. Department of Health and Human Services on Strike at East Coast and Gulf Coast Ports](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued the following statement on the strike at East Coast and Gulf Coast ports.

\*October 1- [One Year of Action: HHS's Efforts to Flatten the Curve of the Syphilis Surge](#). In the year since the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) established the [National Syphilis and Congenital Syphilis Syndemic Federal Task Force](#) in September 2023, the cross-agency effort is working to reduce the cases of syphilis and congenital syphilis through a variety of efforts.

\*October 2- [CMS to Provide Hurricane Helene Public Health Emergency Accelerated and Advance Payments to Medicare Fee-for-Services Providers and Suppliers](#). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is taking action to support providers and suppliers impacted by Hurricane Helene within the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) disaster zones, under the President's major disaster declarations. These providers and suppliers may face significant cash flow issues from the unusual circumstances impacting facilities' operations, preventing facilities from submitting claims and receiving Medicare claims payments.

\*October 2- [HHS Releases Final Guidance for Second Cycle of Historic Medicare Drug Price Negotiation Program](#). As part of the continued implementation of the Biden-Harris Administration's historic prescription drug law, the Inflation Reduction Act, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), released [final guidance](#) today outlining the process for the second cycle of negotiations under the Medicare Drug Price Negotiation Program.

\*October 3- [FDA, CDC, NIH Consensus Statement on Recent Advisory Council Report on Premature Infants and Necrotizing Enterocolitis](#). *Report Indicates Benefits of Human Milk in Protecting Against NEC and No Conclusive Evidence that Preterm Infant Formulas Cause NEC.* Ensuring that the youngest and most vulnerable children have access to safe and nutritious sources of food is a top priority for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the National Institutes of Health. Infant nutrition is critically important for brain and organ development.

\*October 3- [HHS Office for Civil Rights Imposes a \\$240,000 Civil Monetary Penalty Against Providence Medical Institute in HIPAA Ransomware Cybersecurity Investigation](#). *Civil Monetary Penalty marks OCR's fifth ransomware enforcement action amid a 264% increase in large ransomware breaches since 2018.* Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office for Civil Rights (OCR) announced a \$240,000 civil monetary penalty against Providence Medical Institute in Southern California, concerning potential violations of the [Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 \(HIPAA\) Security Rule](#), following

a ransomware attack breach report investigation by OCR. Ransomware and hacking are the primary cyber-threats in health care. There has been a 264% increase in large breaches reported to OCR involving ransomware attacks since 2018.

## Fact Sheets

\*September 27- [Medicare Advantage Value-Based Insurance Design Model Calendar Year 2025 Model Participation](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is announcing the Calendar Year (CY) 2025 participants in the Medicare Advantage (MA) Value-Based Insurance Design (VBID) Model.

\*September 27- [Medicare Advantage and Medicare Prescription Drug Programs to Remain Stable as CMS Implements Improvements to the Programs in 2025](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced that average premiums, benefits, and plan choices for Medicare Advantage and the Medicare Part D prescription drug program are expected to remain stable in 2025.

\*September 30- [Fact Sheet: Report on the Study of the Acute Hospital Care at Home Initiative](#). On September 30, 2024, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released a report on the agency's study of the Acute Hospital Care at Home (AHCAH) initiative, which allows certain Medicare-certified hospitals to treat patients with inpatient-level care at home. While the initiative was launched during the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE), the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (CAA, 2023) extended the waivers and flexibilities associated with the AHCAH initiative until December 31, 2024.

## Blogs

\*September 27- [Celebrating National Hispanic Heritage Month-Pioneers of Change: Shaping the Future Together](#). By: [Melanie Fontes Rainer](#), Director for Office for Civil Rights (OCR).  
*Summary: Happy National Hispanic Heritage Month! This year's theme is Pioneers of Change: Shaping the Future Together. Happy National Hispanic Heritage Month! This year's theme is Pioneers of Change: Shaping the Future Together. That theme has made me reflect upon my own family's history in this country, how far we've come, and to think about what it means to shape the future for this and generations to come.*

\*October 1- [One Year of Action: HHS's Efforts to Flatten the Curve of the Syphilis Surge](#). By: [Rachel Levine M.D.](#), Assistant Secretary for Health & Head of the United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps. Department of Health and Human Services and [National Syphilis and Congenital Syphilis Syndemic](#), (NSCSS) Federal Task Force. *Summary: This blog highlights action taken over the past year by the National Syphilis and Congenital Syphilis Syndemic Task Force. In the year since the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) established*

the [National Syphilis and Congenital Syphilis Syndemic Federal Task Force](#) in September 2023, the cross-agency effort is working to reduce the cases of syphilis and congenital syphilis through a variety of efforts.

\*October 3- [HHS Launches \\$250,000 KidneyED Youth Innovation Challenge](#). By: [Ghelatia Araia MPH](#), *KidneyX ORISE Fellow, OASH, HHS*, [Thomas Calder](#), *Management and Program Analyst*, [Aaron Connolly](#), *HELDI Fellow* and [Daniel Desautels PhD](#), *Health Scientist, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services*. *Summary: Young Innovators Turn Your Ideas into Solutions to Raise Awareness of Kidney Disease and Promote Prevention Behaviors!* Kidney disease affects a significant portion of the adult population in the United States, with 1 in 7 adults suffering from chronic kidney disease (CKD). However, about 40% of people with CKD are unaware of their diagnosis, making it important to raise awareness of the disease and behaviors to prevent it.