



CMS Snapshot

September 29-October 6, 2022

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, September 29 through 2pm Thursday, October 6, 2022

News Releases

*September 29- [Biden-Harris Administration Announces Lower Premiums for Medicare Advantage and Prescription Drug Plans in 2023](#). *Inflation Reduction Act Will Improve Benefits, Lower Health Care Costs for Millions of Americans With Medicare Part D*. The Biden-Harris Administration has made expanding access to health insurance and lowering health care costs for America's families a top priority, and today, the Administration is announcing that people with Medicare will see lower premiums for Medicare Advantage and Medicare Part D prescription drug plans in 2023. Additionally, thanks to the Inflation Reduction Act, people with Medicare prescription drug coverage will have improved and more affordable benefits, including a \$35 cost-sharing limit on a month's supply of each covered insulin product, as well as adult vaccines that are recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) at no additional cost.

*September 30- [With New American Rescue Plan Funding, HHS Expands and Strengthens the Community and Public Health Workforce](#). *HHS invests \$225.5 million in community health workers, \$40.7 million in public health scholarships*. Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), awarded more than \$266 million in American Rescue Plan funding to grow the community and public health workforce.

*September 30- [HHS Announces Roselyn Tso as Director of the Indian Health Service](#). On Tuesday, September 27, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra formally swore in Roselyn Tso as Director of the Indian Health Service. Director Tso is a member of the Navajo Nation and previously served as the IHS Navajo Area director. She has served in various leadership roles at IHS for nearly four decades.

*September 30- [New HHS Reports Illustrate Potential Positive Impact of Inflation Reduction Act on Prescription Drug Prices](#). *The reports, which track rising drug costs from 2016 to 2022, provide information on how much inflation rebates in the Inflation Reduction Act would protect*

Medicare beneficiaries from rising drug prices. For decades, Americans have spent more on prescription drugs than people in other countries. The Biden-Harris Administration has prioritized making prescription drugs more affordable for Americans both to improve public health and to provide economic relief to Americans, many of whom pay a significant part of their income for the medication they need to stay healthy.

*September 30- [President Biden's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders Releases Inaugural Report](#). *The report details the Commission's first set of recommendations to advance equity, justice, and opportunity for AA and NHP communities.* Today, the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders released its inaugural report, publicly detailing more than a dozen recommendations that were transmitted to President Joe Biden on August 24.

*September 30- [HHS Secretary Becerra Declares Public Health Emergency for South Carolina in response to Hurricane Ian](#). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra today declared a Public Health Emergency for the state of South Carolina to address the health impacts of Hurricane Ian. The declaration follows President Biden's [emergency declaration](#) and gives the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), health care providers and suppliers, greater flexibility in meeting emergency health needs of Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries.

*October 3- [HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra, CMS Administrator Chiquita Brooks-LaSure Remark on Implementation of Inflation Reduction Act Provision Addressing Medicare Payments for Biosimilars](#). Today, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Administrator Chiquita Brooks-LaSure issued the following statements on the implementation of Medicare Part B payment changes for certain biosimilars, one of the first Medicare provisions of the Inflation Reduction Act to go into effect.

*October 3- [CMS Announces Resources and Flexibilities to Assist with the Public Health Emergency in the State of South Carolina](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services announced today additional resources and flexibilities available in response to Hurricane Ian in the State of South Carolina. CMS is working closely with the State of 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.

*October 3- [HHS Announces LEAP in Health IT Awardees Focused on Health Equity](#). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) today announced two awards totaling \$2 million under the Leading Edge Acceleration Projects in Health Information Technology (LEAP in Health IT) funding opportunity. LEAP in Health IT awardees seek to create methods and tools to improve care delivery, advance research capabilities and address emerging challenges that inhibit the advancement of interoperable health IT.

*October 3- [HHS Invests Nearly \\$27 Million to Expand Support for Pediatric Mental Health Care](#). *Funding from President Biden's Bipartisan Safer Communities Act and American Rescue Plan will help pediatricians meet children's mental health needs, strengthen children's mental health services in emergency departments and schools.* Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), is announcing awards of nearly \$27 million to improve and expand mental health care for children. This funding will offer timely mental health support to children and adolescents by training pediatricians and other children's health care providers in treating mental health conditions and by providing tele-consultation to bring mental health expert support directly to pediatric primary care providers.

*October 3- [HHS Awards Organizations Advancing Community-Driven Approaches to Tackling Structural Racism](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Office of Minority Health (OMH) announced more than \$4.8 million in grants to 10 organizations under its Community-Driven Approaches to Address Factors Contributing to Structural Racism in Public Health initiative. The grant money will support a three-year OMH initiative that intends to identify new and innovative ways to address policies that may create or perpetuate health disparities and may contribute to structural racism.

*October 3- [HHS amends PREP Act declaration increasing workforce authorized to administer monkeypox vaccines](#). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra today amended the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act ([PREP Act](#)) declaration for smallpox medical countermeasures to expand the categories of providers authorized to administer vaccines and therapeutics against smallpox, [monkeypox virus](#), and other orthopoxviruses in a declared emergency.

*October 3- [HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra, CMS Administrator Chiquita Brooks-LaSure Remark on Implementation of Inflation Reduction Act Provision Addressing Medicare Payments for Biosimilars](#). Today, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Administrator Chiquita Brooks-LaSure issued the following statements on the implementation of Medicare Part B payment changes for certain biosimilars, one of the first Medicare provisions of the Inflation Reduction Act to go into effect.

*October 4- [HHS Announces Grant Funding for Reproductive Health and Family Planning Services Research](#). *Latest Actions by Biden-Harris Administration to Protect and Expand Access to Reproductive Health Care.* Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Office of Population Affairs (OPA), announced more than \$6 million for Title X Family Planning Research grants, Research-to-Practice Center grants, and Teenage Pregnancy Prevention Evaluation and Research grants as part of its work to protect and expand access to reproductive health care. HHS' OPA focuses on advancing best practices for health in family planning and preventive care. The funding is intended to improve service delivery, promote the adoption of healthy behaviors, and reduce existing health disparities.

*October 5- [CMS Asks for Public Input on Establishing First, National Directory of Health Care Providers and Services](#). As part of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) ongoing work to improve access to care, reduce clinician burden, and support interoperability throughout the health sector, CMS today released a Request for Information (RFI) seeking public input on the concept of CMS creating a directory with information on health care providers and services or a "National Directory of Healthcare Providers and Services" (NDH).

*October 5- [CMS Asks for Public Input on Establishing First, National Directory of Health Care Providers and Services](#). As part of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) ongoing work to improve access to care, reduce clinician burden, and support interoperability throughout the health sector, CMS today released a Request for Information (RFI) seeking public input on the concept of CMS creating a directory with information on health care providers and services or a "National Directory of Healthcare Providers and Services" (NDH).

*October 6- [HHS Takes Action to Break Language Barriers](#). *In addition to updating language access plans across the Department, HHS is awarding \$4 Million for a new language access initiative.* Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is announcing a number of steps to improve language access through HHS programs and advance the Biden-Harris Administration's goal of overcoming barriers to equity in health care and human services.

*October 6- [Readout: Secretary Becerra meeting with Minister of Health of Uganda](#). On Tuesday, October 5, Secretary Xavier Becerra had a call with the Honorable Minister Jane Aceng Ocera, Minister of Health of Uganda to discuss the current outbreak of Ebolavirus. Secretary Becerra emphasized that the United States and HHS stand ready and willing to support Uganda throughout this challenging period, and commended the Minister and her team for their efforts to date.

Fact Sheets

*September 29- [Medicare Advantage Value-Based Insurance Design Model Calendar Year 2023 Model Participation](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is announcing the Calendar Year (CY) 2023 participants in the Medicare Advantage (MA) Value-Based Insurance Design (VBID) Model. The estimated number of Medicare enrollees covered by participating MA plans will increase by more than 24% in 2023 compared to 2022.

*October 5- [The Inflation Reduction Act Lowers Health Care Costs for Millions of Americans](#). Through the Inflation Reduction Act, President Biden is delivering on his promise to lower prescription drug costs, make health insurance more affordable, and make the economy work for working families. This law means millions of Americans across all 50 states, the United States territories, and the District of Columbia will save money from meaningful benefits like:

Blog

*September 30- [3 ways to get ready for 2023 Open Enrollment](#). Open Enrollment for 2023 coverage starts November 1! Find out what you can do today to make applying easier.

For more information, please email partnership@cms.hhs.gov