



CMS Snapshot

October 10-17, 2024

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, October 10 through 2pm Thursday, October 17, 2024.

News Releases

*October 16- [Biden-Harris Administration Takes Groundbreaking Action to Expand Health Care Access by Covering Traditional Health Care Practices](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), approved section 1115 demonstration amendments that allow, for the first time ever, Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) coverage of traditional health care practices provided by Indian Health Service (IHS) facilities, Tribal facilities, and urban Indian organizations (UIO). Today's action is expected to improve access to culturally appropriate health care and improve the quality of care and health outcomes for tribal communities in Arizona, California, New Mexico, and Oregon, and will support IHS, Tribal, and UIO facilities in serving their patients.

*October 17- [HHS Office for Civil Rights Imposes a \\$70,000 Civil Monetary Penalty Against Gums Dental Care for Failure to Provide Timely Access to Patient Records](#). *The civil money penalty marks OCR's 50th HIPAA Right of Access enforcement action.* Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office for Civil Rights (OCR), announced a \$70,000 civil monetary penalty against Gums Dental Care, LLC (Gums Dental Care), a solo dental practice in Maryland that provides family dental care, as a result of an investigation based on a complaint that Gums Dental had failed to provide a patient with timely access to their medical records. The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) Privacy Rule's [right of access provisions](#) require that individuals or their personal representatives have timely access to their health information (within 30 days, with the possibility of one 30-day extension) and for a reasonable, cost-based fee.

Fact Sheets

*October 10- [2025 Medicare Advantage and Part D Star Ratings](#). *Note: The information included in this Fact Sheet is based on the 2025 Star Ratings published on the Medicare Plan Finder on*

October 10, 2024. For details on the Medicare Advantage (MA) and Part D Star Ratings, please refer to the 2025 Part C & D Star Ratings Technical Notes available at <http://go.cms.gov/partcanddstarratings>. Ensuring that Medicare works for seniors and people with disabilities, and that people with Medicare have access to robust, stable, high-quality, and affordable options for the coverage they need, are top priorities for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

*October 11- [Fact Sheet: Biden-Harris Administration Takes Action to Ensure Americans Can Access Medical Supplies Following Hurricanes Helene and Milton](#). *As a result of these actions, significantly more IV fluid is available this week versus last week, with increased access expected in coming weeks.* Following storm damage from Hurricane Helene at Baxter International Inc.'s facility in North Carolina, the Biden-Harris Administration continues taking action to support access to IV fluids, including ensuring restoration of key production sites, protecting products, and opening imports, in partnership with manufacturers, distributors, hospitals, and other stakeholders. As a result of these steps, *hospitals have 50% more product available to them this week compared to last*, and access is expected to continue to increase in the weeks to come.

Blogs

*October 11- [More Affordable Prescription Drugs for Latino Seniors with Medicare](#). By: [Jeffrey Reynoso](#), Regional Director for Region 9. *Summary: Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month and the Biden-Harris Administration's efforts to lower prescription drug costs for Hispanic Medicare enrollees.* September 15 marks the beginning of Hispanic Heritage Month, an annual celebration of Hispanic history and culture. More than 65 million Americans identify as Hispanic and the Biden-Harris Administration is committed to ensuring that our Hispanic communities have the tools and support they need to live healthy and fulfilling lives.

*October 15- [Spotlight: Puerto Rico - Prioritizing Building Coalitions and Safeguarding Civil Rights and Privacy Protections for the 3.2M Residents in Puerto Rico](#). By: [Melanie Fontes Rainer](#), Director for Office for Civil Rights (OCR). *Summary: OCR visited Puerto Rico for governmental and community engagement to advance equity in access to health care.* Advancing equity and removing barriers in access to health care for every community across the nation is a key priority of the Biden-Harris Administration. As Hispanic Heritage Month comes to an end, I am proud of the work that we have done to advance equity and address disparities in health care to help ensure that all people can access health care, free from discrimination. That's why I am proud that this past June, the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) traveled to Puerto Rico to meet with the public and engage with our government partners.