



CMS Snapshot

November 14-21, 2024

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, November 14 through 2pm Thursday, November 21, 2024.

News Releases

*November 14- [Biden-Harris Administration Announces Approvals in Five States that will Keep Eligible Children and Adults Enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP](#). Building upon its commitment to expand health care coverage and ensure continuity of care, today the Biden-Harris Administration, through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), approved five section 1115 demonstration amendments. These amendments will authorize Colorado, Hawaii, Minnesota, New York, and Pennsylvania to provide additional years of continuous eligibility for children beyond the minimum 12 months required by law, and will newly provide continuous eligibility to individuals leaving incarceration in Colorado and Pennsylvania.

*November 15- [CMS Roundup \(November. 15, 2024\)](#).

*November 15- [HHS Takes Action on the Not Invisible Act Commission's Findings and Recommendations](#). WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is committed to protecting the public safety and well-being of American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander people and communities by addressing the recommendations of the Not Invisible Act Commission. The Not Invisible Act Commission is a cross jurisdictional advisory committee composed of law enforcement, Tribal leaders, federal partners, service providers, family members of missing and murdered individuals, and survivors. The Commission developed recommendations to address public safety challenges identified in the Act.

*November 18- [HHS Shares Health Sector Climate Resilience and Emissions Reduction Announcements at COP29](#). *Highlights include federal health system decarbonization updates; a novel estimate of U.S. hospital GHG emissions; and new case studies of community health centers leveraging the Inflation Reduction Act to lower operating costs and build resiliency.* (Baku, Azerbaijan) – A U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) delegation to the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29) today announced several recent milestones in ongoing climate resilience and decarbonization efforts across the Department.

These efforts help the health sector lower operating costs and build resiliency to ensure hospitals are able to stay open during and after disasters.

*November 18- [Biden-Harris Administration Launches National Behavioral Health Workforce Career Navigator](#). In recognition of National Career Development Day, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), an agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), announced today the launch of the [Behavioral Health Workforce Career Navigator](#), designed to help current and aspiring behavioral health professionals identify state requirements for a range of behavioral health careers. The navigator supports President Biden and Vice President Harris' commitment to expanding America's behavioral health workforce, a key element of the Administration's [Unity Agenda for the Nation](#).

*November 18- [HHS Office for Civil Rights Reaches Agreement with Illinois Department of Human Services to Enforce Federal Disability Rights Laws](#). *This action serves as the latest in a series of efforts OCR has made to advance and protect the civil rights of people with disabilities to live in their homes and communities.* Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office for Civil Rights (OCR), announced an agreement with the State of Illinois Department of Human Services to enforce Federal disability rights laws. This agreement comes after a complaint alleging that an individual with disabilities, A.C., was unjustifiably institutionalized potentially violating disability civil rights laws under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (Section 504), Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act (Section 1557), and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

*November 19- [U.S. Surgeon General Releases New Report: Eliminating Tobacco-Related Disease and Death, Addressing Health Disparities](#). *U.S. Surgeon General Releases New Report: Eliminating Tobacco-Related Disease and Death, Addressing Health Disparities.* WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, the Surgeon General released a new report on health disparities related to tobacco use, which finds that despite the nation's substantial progress in reducing cigarette smoking and secondhand smoke exposure in the overall U.S. population, that progress has not been equal for all population groups. Disparities in tobacco use persist by race and ethnicity, income, education, sexual orientation and gender identity, occupation, geography, behavioral health status, and other factors. Additionally, cigarette smoking and secondhand smoke exposure continue to cause nearly half a million deaths a year in the United States—nearly one in five of *all* deaths.

*November 19- [HHS Office for Civil Rights Imposes a \\$100,000 Penalty Against Mental Health Center for Failure to Provide Timely Access to Patient Records](#). *The civil money penalty marks OCR's 51st HIPAA Right of Access enforcement action to advance patient access to medical records.* Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office for Civil Rights (OCR), announced a \$100,000 civil monetary penalty against Rio Hondo Community Mental Health Center ("Rio Hondo") in California. The penalty resolves an investigation into Rio Hondo over a failure to provide a patient with timely access to their medical records.

*November 20- [Statement for Transgender Day of Remembrance on November 20, 2024](#). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Assistant Secretary for Health ADM Rachel Levine, issued the following statement today in commemoration of Transgender Day of Remembrance to honor and remember those who have lost their lives to anti-transgender violence.

*November 20- [Statement by Secretary Xavier Becerra on Transgender Day of Remembrance](#).

Fact Sheet

*November 15- [Fiscal Year 2024 Improper Payments Fact Sheet](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is committed to being a responsible steward of public funds and to promoting the sustainability of its programs for future generations. While CMS' improper payments reporting programs are designed to protect the integrity of CMS programs, it is important to keep in mind that not all improper payments represent fraud or abuse.

Blog

*November 21- [Act now for health coverage in 2025](#). Open Enrollment is now. Start 2025 off right by enrolling in coverage for the new year.