



CMS Snapshot

November 21-28, 2024

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, November 21 through 2pm Thursday, November 28, 2024.

News Releases

*November 22- [Over 496,000 New Consumers Selected Affordable Health Coverage in ACA Marketplace](#). ACA Marketplace National Enrollment [snapshot](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is committed to creating a robust Marketplace Open Enrollment process for consumers so they can effortlessly purchase high-quality, affordable health care coverage. CMS reports that 496,000^[1] consumers who do not currently have health care coverage through the individual-market Marketplace have signed up for plan year 2025 coverage.

*November 22- [HHS Office for Civil Rights Issues Dear Colleague Letter](#). *This latest action by OCR highlights the Biden-Harris Administration's commitment to counter Antisemitism, Islamophobia and related forms of discrimination.* Today the Department of Human Services (HHS), Office for Civil Rights (OCR) issued a [Dear Colleague Letter - PDF](#) reminding HHS-funded health and human service providers of their obligation under federal civil rights laws to prevent and address discrimination based on Antisemitism, Islamophobia, and other forms of discrimination based on religion, shared ancestry, or ethnicity. The Letter points to previously issued guidance and provides examples of prohibited actions.

*November 25- [Biden-Harris Administration Releases Resources to Help Communities Address Trauma and Mental Health Impacts of Gun Violence](#). Today, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), an agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), announced the release of resources intended to help communities address the trauma and mental health impacts of gun violence. These resources are part of [additional executive actions](#) announced by the Biden-Harris Administration in September to reduce gun violence and save lives, and part of the larger Biden Unity Agenda for the Nation.

*November 26- [Biden-Harris Administration Announces Medicare Advantage and Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Proposals that Aim to Improve Care and Access for Enrollees](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is proposing actions in the Medicare Advantage (MA) and Medicare Part D prescription drug programs to continue to strengthen protections and access to care for people with Medicare. The Contract Year (CY) 2026 MA and Part D proposed rule aims to hold MA and Part D plans more accountable for delivering high-quality coverage so that people with Medicare are connected to the care they need when they need it.

*November 26- [Biden-Harris Administration Finalizes New Model to Improve Access to Kidney Transplants](#). *New Model Aims to Reduce Costs, Streamline Care, and Promote Greater Access and Efficiency*. Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), finalized a rule establishing a new, six-year mandatory model aimed at increasing access to kidney transplants while improving quality of care for people seeking kidney transplants and reducing disparities among individuals undergoing the process to receive a kidney transplant. The Increasing Organ Transplant Access Model's mandatory participation of transplant hospitals will also help spur innovation nationwide by evenly distributing the model's effects across the nation while engaging more specialists in value-based care.

*November 26- [Biden-Harris Administration Policy Expands Access to Life-Saving Organs for People with HIV](#). *Final Rule Removes Clinical Research Requirements for Kidney and Liver Transplants from Donors with HIV*. Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced a [final rule](#) that will expand access to kidney and liver transplants for people with HIV by removing clinical research requirements for these transplants. This action marks a significant step forward in increasing the availability of life-saving organs for all patients regardless of their HIV status while continuing to reduce barriers and stigma for people with HIV.

*November 26- [HHS Office for Civil Rights Settles with Holy Redeemer Hospital Over Disclosure of Patient's Protected Health Information, Including Reproductive Health Information](#). *Settlement emphasizes the need to ensure the privacy of PHI, including reproductive health information*. Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office for Civil Rights (OCR) announced a settlement with Holy Redeemer Family Medicine (Holy Redeemer), a Pennsylvania hospital, concerning an alleged violation of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) Privacy Rule due to an impermissible disclosure of a female patient's protected health information, including information related to reproductive health care. OCR enforces the [HIPAA Privacy, Security, and Breach Notification Rules](#), which set forth the requirements that covered entities (health plans, health care clearinghouses, and most health care providers) and business associates must follow relating to the privacy and security of protected health information.

Fact Sheets

*November 22- [Marketplace 2025 Open Enrollment Period Report: National Snapshot](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) reports that nearly 496,000 consumers who do not currently have health care coverage through the individual-market Marketplace plans have signed up for coverage in 2025, since the start of the Marketplace Open Enrollment Period (OEP) on November 1. Existing consumers are also returning to the Marketplace to actively renew their coverage, and anyone who does not actively renew will be automatically re-enrolled for 2025. Over 2.5 million existing consumers have already returned to the Marketplace to select a plan for 2025.

*November 26- [Contract Year 2026 Policy and Technical Changes to the Medicare Advantage Program, Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit Program, Medicare Cost Plan Program, and Programs of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly \(CMS-4208-P\)](#). *Background-* On November 26, 2024, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a proposed rule that would revise the Medicare Advantage (MA) Program, Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit Program (Part D), Medicare Cost Plan Program, Programs of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE). The Contract Year (CY) 2026 MA and Part D proposed rule aims to hold MA and Part D plans more accountable for delivering high-quality coverage so that people with Medicare are connected to the care they need when they need it.