



CMS Snapshot

December 1-8, 2022

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, December 1 through 2pm Thursday, December 8, 2022

News Releases

*December 2- [HHS Roadmap for Behavioral Health Integration](#). *Our nation faces an unprecedented behavioral health crisis among people of all ages.* In his first State of the Union, the President [outlined a bold national strategy](#) to prevent, treat, and provide long term recovery supports for mental illness and substance use disorders (M/SUD). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has a leadership role to implement and advance the President's Strategy. Over the course of the pandemic, [self-reported symptoms of anxiety have increased](#) , as has the [rate of overdose deaths](#). Despite this apparent increased need for M/SUD care, use of such services dropped sharply at the beginning of the pandemic and has been slower to rebound to pre-pandemic levels than other types of health care. In 2020, the past-year prevalence of any mental illness among adults in the United States (U.S.) [was 21% - PDF](#), meaning that 52.9 million adults were affected by mental illness. Substance use disorders affected [15% - PDF](#) (37.9 million) of U.S. adults, including [6.7% - PDF](#) (17 million) of U.S. adults who were affected by both mental illness and substance use disorders. In 2019, one in three high school students and half of female students [reported](#) persistent feelings of sadness or hopelessness, an overall increase of 40 percent from 2009. In response, the [Surgeon General issued an Advisory on youth mental health - PDF](#).

*December 2- [One Year After Releasing its Groundbreaking Overdose Prevention Strategy, HHS Announces New Data Showing Nation Has Expanded its Ability to Treat Addiction and Save Lives](#). *HHS also announces new actions to build on this progress.* Today, at the Whitman-Walker Health Center in Washington, D.C., U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra marked the one-year anniversary of HHS's [Overdose Prevention Strategy](#) (Strategy) by announcing the progress the nation has made since the release of the Strategy, showing expanded treatment capacity, lives saved from overdose, and commitment to long term recovery supports. Secretary Becerra also highlighted [one recent action](#), and announced another new action taken by HHS to build on this groundbreaking progress by

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expanding access to the overdose-reversing drug naloxone. The Overdose Prevention Strategy helps advance President Biden's [National Drug Control Strategy](#) and his Unity Agenda to beat the overdose epidemic.

*December 2- [Statement From HHS Secretary Becerra on mpox](#). Today, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra released the following statement on mpox.

*December 6- [CMS Proposes Rule to Expand Access to Health Information and Improve the Prior Authorization Process](#). As part of the Biden-Harris Administration's ongoing commitment to increasing health data exchange and investing in interoperability, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a proposed rule that would improve patient and provider access to health information and streamline processes related to prior authorization for medical items and services. CMS proposes to modernize the health care system by requiring certain payers to implement an electronic prior authorization process, shorten the time frames for certain payers to respond to prior authorization requests, and establish policies to make the prior authorization process more efficient and transparent. The rule also proposes to require certain payers to implement standards that would enable data exchange from one payer to another payer when a patient changes payers or has concurrent coverage, which is expected to help ensure that complete patient records would be available throughout patient transitions between payers.

*December 7- [HHS Announces Continued Fast-Paced Enrollment with Nearly 5.5 Million Signing Up for Affordable Health Coverage in ACA Marketplace Since Start of Open Enrollment Period](#). *Plan selections represent an 18% increase over last year, including 1.2 million enrollees who are new to the Marketplace.* ACA Marketplace National Enrollment [Snapshot](#). The Biden-Harris Administration announced today that Affordable Care Act (ACA) Marketplace enrollment continues to move at a fast pace--nearly 5.5 million people have selected an Affordable Care Act (ACA) Marketplace health plan nationwide since the start of the 2023 Marketplace Open Enrollment Period (OEP) on November 1. This represents activity through December 3, 2022 (Week 5) for the 33 Marketplaces using HealthCare.gov and through November 26, 2022 (Week 4) for the 18 State-based Marketplaces (SBMs) in 17 states and the District of Columbia. Total plan selections include 1.2 million people (22% of total) who are new to the Marketplaces for 2023, and 4.3 million people (78% of total) who have active 2022 coverage and returned to their respective Marketplaces to renew or select a new plan for 2023. The 5.5 million total plan selections represent an 18% increase from 4.6 million this time last year.

Fact Sheets

*December 6- [Advancing Interoperability and Improving Prior Authorization Processes Proposed Rule CMS-0057-P: Fact Sheet](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is

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continuing to advance our interoperability goals and tackle process challenges related to prior authorization to increase efficiencies in health care. The proposals would place new requirements on Medicare Advantage (MA) organizations, state Medicaid and CHIP Fee-for-Service (FFS) programs, Medicaid managed care plans and Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) managed care entities, and Qualified Health Plan (QHP) issuers on the Federally Facilitated Exchanges (FfEs), (collectively “impacted payers”), to improve the electronic exchange of health care data and streamline processes related to prior authorization.

*December 7- [Marketplace 2023 Open Enrollment Period Report: National Snapshot #2](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) reports that nearly 5.5 million Americans have signed up for 2023 individual market health insurance coverage through the Marketplaces since the start of the 2023 Marketplace Open Enrollment Period (OEP) on November 1. This includes 4.9 million plan selections in the 33 Marketplaces using the HealthCare.gov platform for the 2023 plan year, through December 3, 2022 (Week 5), and 598,000 plan selections in the 18 State-based Marketplaces (SBMs) in 17 states and the District of Columbia that are using their own eligibility and enrollment platforms, through November 26, 2022 (Week 4). Total nationwide plan selections include 1.2 million consumers (22% of total) who are new to the Marketplaces for 2023, and 4.3 million consumers (78% of total) who have active 2022 coverage and returned to their respective Marketplaces to renew or select a new plan for 2023.

Blog

*December 8- [Time’s running out: Sign up by Dec 15 for coverage that starts Jan 1](#). Your last chance to apply for, re-enroll in, or change 2023 Marketplace health coverage is almost here. The deadline is December 15. That’s just 6 days away. Act now – don’t miss out on health coverage that meets your needs and budget.

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