



CMS Snapshot

September 17-24, 2020

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, September 17 through 2pm Thursday, September 24, 2020.

News Releases

*September 17- [CMS Announces New Guidance for Safe Visitation in Nursing Homes During COVID-19 Public Health Emergency](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued revised guidance providing detailed recommendations on ways nursing homes can safely facilitate visitation during the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. After several months of visitor restrictions designed to slow the spread of COVID-19, CMS recognizes that physical separation from family and other loved ones has taken a significant toll on nursing home residents.

*September 18- [CMS Announces Transformative New Model of Care for Medicare Beneficiaries with Chronic Kidney Disease](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced it has finalized the End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Treatment Choices (ETC) Model, to improve or maintain the quality of care and reduce Medicare expenditures for patients with chronic kidney disease. The ETC Model delivers on President Trump's Advancing Kidney Health Executive Order and encourages an increased use of home dialysis and kidney transplants to help improve the quality of life of Medicare beneficiaries with ESRD.

*September 18- [CMS Seeks Feedback on Performance of Medicaid Funded Home and Community-Based Services](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released a request for information (RFI) to solicit public feedback on its efforts to track the performance of Medicaid-funded home and community-based services (HCBS). HCBS provide opportunities for Medicaid beneficiaries to receive services in their own home or community rather than institutions or other isolated settings.

*September 20- [HHS Statement on Regulatory Process](#). On September 15, the Department of Health and Human Services issued a memo on agency procedures, clarifying that all departmental rules, which are all issued by the Secretary, must now be signed by the Secretary.

*September 21- [Orthopedic Clinic Pays \\$1.5 Million to Settle Systemic Noncompliance with HIPAA Rules](#). Athens Orthopedic Clinic PA ("Athens Orthopedic") has agreed to pay \$1,500,000

to the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and to adopt a corrective action plan to settle potential violations of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Privacy and Security Rules. Athens Orthopedic is located in Georgia and provides orthopedic services to approximately 138,000 patients annually.

*September 22- [CMS to Expand Successful Ambulance Program Integrity Payment Model Nationwide](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced that it will expand the Medicare Prior Authorization Model for Repetitive, Scheduled Non-Emergent Ambulance Transport (RSNAT) nationwide. The model has saved Medicare about \$650 million over four years while preserving quality of care and access to essential services.

*September 23- [HHS Awards Nearly \\$360 Million To Programs Supporting Maternal and Child Health](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced approximately \$341 million in funding to 55 states, territories and nonprofit organizations through the Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program and approximately \$16 million in funding to the State Maternal Health Innovation (State MHI) Program to improve maternal health outcomes.

*September 23- [HHS Announces Health IT Awardees Focused on Data Sharing to Support Clinical Care, Research, and Improved Outcomes](#). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) today announced four awards totaling more than \$2.7 million under the Leading Edge Acceleration Projects in Health Information Technology (LEAP in Health IT) funding opportunity. The LEAP in Health IT awardees will address fast-emerging challenges in interoperable health information technology (health IT), thus advancing opportunities for the adoption and use of health IT standards across the health care ecosystem.

*September 23- [HIPAA Business Associate Pays \\$2.3 Million to Settle Breach Affecting Protected Health Information of Over 6 million Individuals](#). CHSPSC LLC, ("CHSPSC") has agreed to pay \$2,300,000 to the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and to adopt a corrective action plan to settle potential violations of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Privacy and Security Rules related to a breach affecting over six million people. CHSPSC provides a variety of business associate services, including IT and health information management, to hospitals and physician clinics indirectly owned by Community Health Systems, Inc., in Franklin, Tennessee.

*September 23- [Administration Announces \\$200 million from CDC to Jurisdictions for COVID-19 Vaccine Preparedness](#). The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is announcing upcoming action by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to provide \$200 million to jurisdictions for COVID-19 vaccine preparedness.

*September 23- [CMS Announces New Federal Funding for 33 States to Support Transitioning Individuals from Nursing Homes to the Community](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid

Services (CMS) today announced the availability of up to \$165 million in supplemental funding to states currently operating Money Follows the Person (MFP) demonstration programs. This funding will help state Medicaid programs jump-start efforts to transition individuals with disabilities and older adults from institutions and nursing facilities to home and community-based settings of their choosing.

*September 23- [CMS Issues Urgent Call to Action Following Drastic Decline in Care for Children in Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program Due to COVID-19 Pandemic](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released preliminary Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) data revealing that, during the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) public health emergency (PHE), rates for vaccinations, primary, and preventive services among children in Medicaid and CHIP have steeply declined.

Fact Sheets

*September 18- [End-Stage Renal Disease Treatment Choices \(ETC\) Model Fact Sheet](#). The End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Treatment Choices (ETC) Model is an innovative payment model that aims to test whether greater use of home dialysis and kidney transplantation for Medicare beneficiaries with ESRD will reduce Medicare expenditures, while preserving or enhancing the quality of care furnished to beneficiaries with ESRD.

*September 18- [Pennsylvania Rural Health Model](#). The Pennsylvania Rural Health Model (PARHM) seeks to test whether care delivery transformation in conjunction with hospital global budgets increases rural Pennsylvanians' access to high-quality care and improves their health, while also reducing the growth of hospital expenditures across payers, including Medicare, and bolstering the financial viability of rural Pennsylvania hospitals to improve health outcomes of and maintain continued access to care for Pennsylvania's rural residents.

*September 23- [Fact Sheet: Service Use among Medicaid & CHIP Beneficiaries age 18 and Under during COVID-19](#). To monitor the impact of the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE), the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is releasing its first ever preliminary data snapshot focusing on the impact of COVID-19 on service utilization for children age 18 and under enrolled in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

Blogs

*September 24- [Sign up for Marketplace reminders & important info](#). With Open Enrollment for 2021 coverage just over a month away, sign up today for deadline reminders and useful tips so you don't miss out on late-breaking information.

CMS has developed a [Virtual Toolkit](#) to help you stay informed on CMS and HHS materials available on the COVID-19. Please share these materials, bookmark the page, and check back often for the most up-to-date information. For more information, please email partnership@cms.hhs.gov