



CMS Snapshot

October 1-8, 2020

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, October 1 through 2pm Thursday, October 8, 2020.

News Releases

*October 1- [HHS Teams Up with The Rockefeller Foundation to Share Best Practices for Increased COVID-19 Testing](#). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and The Rockefeller Foundation have signed an agreement to identify and share effective approaches for using rapid point-of-care (POC) antigen tests to screen for COVID-19 in communities, with a focus on safely reopening K-12 schools. The partnership establishes a pilot program with select cities and states in The Rockefeller Foundation's Testing Solutions Group (TSG), a network of public officials devoted to rapidly scaling COVID-19 testing, tracing, and tracking in their communities.

*October 5- [HHS Assistant Secretary for Health Admiral Brett Giroir to Participate in the World Health Organization Executive Board Special Session on COVID-19](#). The World Health Organization is hosting a special session of its Executive Board (EB) to focus on the COVID-19 pandemic and response. HHS Assistant Secretary for Health Admiral Brett Giroir, M.D., will lead a small delegation from the United States attending the meeting through a virtual platform. In addition to HHS and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Department of State and the U.S. Agency for International Development will participate in the EB Special Session.

*October 5- [Statement from Assistant Secretary for Health ADM Brett P. Giroir: Update on Implementation of Resolution WHA73.1 on the COVID-19 Response](#). World Health Organization Special Session of the Executive Board Geneva, Switzerland and Virtual

*October 5- [Secretary Azar Statement on Mental Health Executive Order](#). On Monday, the White House issued President Trump's Executive Order on Saving Lives Through Increased Support For Mental- and Behavioral-Health Needs, which orders the creation of a Coronavirus Mental Health Working Group, co-chaired by the HHS Secretary and Brooke Rollins, Acting Director of the Domestic Policy Council (or their designees), the submission of a plan by the working group for addressing mental health impacts of COVID-19, and calls for agencies to

maximize support, including safe in-person services, for Americans in need of behavioral health treatment.

October 7- [Surgeon General Releases Call to Action on Hypertension Control](#). Today, Surgeon General VADM Jerome M. Adams, M.D., M.P.H., issued a Call to Action urging Americans to recognize and address hypertension control as a national, public health priority. The Surgeon General's Call to Action to Control Hypertension - PDF provides strategies for those on the frontlines of health care and public health to address this costly, dangerous and far too common chronic health condition.

*October 7- [OCR Settles Eighth Investigation in HIPAA Right of Access Initiative](#). The Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announces that it has settled its eighth enforcement action in its HIPAA Right of Access Initiative. OCR announced this initiative as an enforcement priority in 2019 to support individuals' right to timely access to their health records at a reasonable cost under the HIPAA Privacy Rule.

*October 8- [High-Quality Care for Medicare Beneficiaries Continues as Medicare Health and Drug Plans Receive Star Ratings](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced that Medicare beneficiaries will continue to have access to high-quality Medicare Advantage and Part D prescription drug plans in 2021. According to the latest data, quality ratings of Medicare Advantage and Medicare Part D drug plans remain strong. Most Medicare beneficiaries – about 77 percent – who enroll in Medicare Advantage plans with drug coverage will be in plans with four or more stars in 2021.

Blogs

*October 5- [Don't put off your yearly mammogram—it's too important to miss!](#) Breast cancer is the second most common cancer among women. Getting your yearly mammogram is the best way to find breast cancer early. Mammograms are breast cancer screenings that can detect a lump up to 3 years before you or your doctor can feel it. This helps to detect breast cancer early, when it's most treatable.

*October 8- [3 ways to get ready to apply for 2021 coverage](#). With Open Enrollment for 2021 less than a month away, make sure you're prepared. Whether you're enrolling for the first or fifth time or planning to renew your current plan, taking small steps to get ready now can help the application process run smoothly when you apply for coverage starting November 1.

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