



CMS Snapshot

March 18-25, 2021

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, March 18 through 2pm Thursday, March 25, 2021.

News Releases

*March 22- [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Announces Additional Biden Administration Staff Appointments](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced additional Biden Administration appointments: "The team at HHS is working around the clock to fight the COVID-19 pandemic, expand the affordable health care, and implement President Biden's transformative American Rescue Plan – which will bring health care costs down for millions of American families," said HHS Chief of Staff Sean McCluskie. "These appointees, under the leadership of Secretary Xavier Becerra, will continue building a department that embodies the core mission of HHS and honors the trust bestowed in us by the American people."

*March 22- [Statement by HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra on the Anniversary of the Affordable Care Act](#). Today, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra released the following statement on the eve of 11th anniversary of the Affordable Care Act: "In the eleven years since it became law, the Affordable Care Act has saved lives, brought down health care costs, and expanded Medicaid to our most vulnerable neighbors. The lifesaving law has been a game changer, protecting roughly 133 million people with pre-existing conditions and extending quality, affordable health care to millions more."

*March 23- [2021 Special Enrollment Period Access Extended to August 15 on HealthCare.gov for Marketplace Coverage](#). Today, President Biden announced that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is extending access to the Special Enrollment Period (SEP) until August 15 – giving consumers additional time to take advantage of new savings through the American Rescue Plan. This action provides new and current enrollees an additional three months to enroll or re-evaluate their coverage needs with increased tax credits available to reduce premiums.

*March 24- [CMS Updates Medicare COVID-19 Data Snapshot](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) today released an updated data snapshot detailing the impact of

COVID-19 on Medicare beneficiaries, particularly among underserved beneficiaries including racial and ethnic minorities, adults 85 years old and older, and people with certain pre-existing conditions. More than 2.7 million beneficiaries were diagnosed with COVID-19 during the snapshot period, and nearly 700,000 beneficiaries were hospitalized with COVID-19, based on a review of services provided January 1, 2020 to December 26, 2020 (for claims received by January 22, 2021).

*March 24- [OCR Settles Seventeenth Investigation in HIPAA Right of Access Initiative](#). The Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announces its seventeenth settlement of an enforcement action in its HIPAA Right of Access Initiative. OCR announced this initiative to support individuals' right to timely access to their health records at a reasonable cost under the HIPAA Privacy Rule.

Fact Sheet

*March 23- [Extended Access Opportunity to Enroll in More Affordable Coverage Through HealthCare.gov](#). Under the American Rescue Plan, many people who buy their own health insurance directly through the Marketplace will become eligible to receive increased tax credits to reduce their premiums. Starting April 1, 2021, consumers enrolling in Marketplace coverage through HealthCare.gov will be able to take advantage of these increased savings and lower costs.

Blog

*March 25- [Quick tips to 'reconcile' your taxes](#). If anyone in your household had Marketplace health coverage in 2020, you should have already received [Form 1095-A, Health Insurance Marketplace® Statement](#). (If you didn't get the form online or by mail, [contact the Marketplace Call Center](#).)

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