



## CMS Snapshot

**May 6-13, 2021**

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, May 6 through 2pm Thursday, May 13, 2021.

### News Releases

\*May 6- [CMS Increases Medicare Payment for COVID-19 Monoclonal Antibody Infusions](#). As part of the ongoing response to address the COVID-19 pandemic, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has increased the Medicare payment rate for administering monoclonal antibodies to treat beneficiaries with COVID-19, continuing coverage under the Medicare Part B COVID-19 vaccine benefit. Beneficiaries pay nothing out of pocket, regardless of where the service is furnished – including in a physician’s office, healthcare facility or at home.

\*May 7- [Readout of HHS Secretary Becerra’s Bilateral Meeting with Indian Minister of Health and Family Welfare](#). Today, Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra met with Indian Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Harsh Vardhan to discuss the ongoing surge of COVID-19 cases in India and reaffirm strong U.S. support to India in this time of crisis.

\*May 10- [HHS Announces Prohibition on Sex Discrimination Includes Discrimination on the Basis of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity](#). Today, the Department of Health and Human Services announced that the Office for Civil Rights will interpret and enforce Section 1557 and Title IX’s prohibitions on discrimination based on sex to include: (1) discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation; and (2) discrimination on the basis of gender identity. Section 1557 prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability in covered health programs or activities. The update was made in light of the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision in *Bostock v. Clayton County* and subsequent court decisions.

\*May 11- [Statement by HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra on One Million Sign-Ups on HealthCare.gov During Special Enrollment Period](#). “More than one million Americans have signed up for coverage on HealthCare.gov during the Special Enrollment Period the Biden-Harris Administration opened. This milestone reinforces what we know to be true, there is a real demand for quality, affordable health care across the United States. Now, thanks to the

American Rescue Plan, millions of Americans are seeing reduced monthly premiums and lower out-of-pocket costs. But our work is far from over.”

\*May 11- [HHS Awards \\$40 Million in American Rescue Plan Funding to Support Emergency Home Visiting Assistance for Families Affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic](#). Today, in recognition of National Women’s Health Week, and thanks to the American Rescue Plan, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), awarded approximately \$40 million in emergency home visiting funds to states, territories, and the District of Columbia to support children and families affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program supports the delivery of coordinated and comprehensive, high quality, voluntary, evidence-based home visiting services to children and families living in communities at risk for poor maternal and child health outcomes.

\*May 11- [CMS Expanding Efforts to Grow COVID-19 Vaccine Confidence and Uptake Amongst Nation’s Most Vulnerable](#). As part of the ongoing response to address the COVID-19 pandemic, and to improve health care access and reduce the risk of severe illness and death from COVID-19, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) today issued a rule that will ensure long-term care facilities, and residential facilities serving clients with intellectual disabilities, educate and offer the COVID-19 vaccine to residents, clients, and staff. These requirements apply to Long-Term Care (LTC) facilities and Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities, or ICFs-IID, and align with existing requirements for influenza and pneumococcal vaccines in LTC facilities.

\*May 12- [Statement on the Swearing-In of Andrea Palm as Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Services](#). Today, following a bipartisan confirmation by the U.S. Senate, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra formally swore in Andrea Palm as Deputy Secretary. Palm previously served as the Secretary-designee of Wisconsin’s Department of Health Services and in several leadership roles at HHS during the Obama-Biden Administration.

## Blogs

\*May 6- [Putting the public in public health: KidneyX COVID-19 Kidney Care Challenge Winners](#). When COVID-19 hit the United States last year, we began to see the toll that the pandemic took on those with chronic diseases. Kidney disease was one of them. People who have chronic and advanced kidney diseases are at a higher risk of complications from COVID-19, and kidney injury is a major complication of COVID-19.

\*May 12- [Get your COVID-19 vaccine to help end the public health emergency](#). Have you gotten your coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) vaccine yet? According to the CDC, more than 42 million people 65 or older have gotten at least one vaccine dose in the U.S., and more than 36

million people 65 or older are fully vaccinated. Everyone 16 years and older is now eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine.

\*May 13- [Lessons Learned from the CMS Artificial Intelligence Health Outcomes Challenge](#). On April 30, CMS [announced the winner and runner-up](#) of the CMS Artificial Intelligence (AI) Health Outcomes Challenge (“AI Challenge”), a prize competition for innovators to demonstrate how artificial intelligence tools can be used to accelerate the development of AI solutions that predict patient health events for Medicare beneficiaries for potential use by the CMS Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (Innovation Center) in testing innovative payment and service delivery models. This announcement, which marked the culmination of a two-year competition, was an exciting example of how public/private partnerships can drive innovation. The AI challenge was notable for several reasons...

*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](mailto:partnership@cms.hhs.gov)*