



## CMS Snapshot

### September 9-16, 2021

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, September 9 through 2pm Thursday, September 16, 2021.

#### News Releases

\*September 10- [HHS Announces the Availability of \\$25.5 Billion in COVID-19 Provider Funding](#).

The Biden-Harris Administration announced today that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), is making \$25.5 billion in new funding available for health care providers affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. This funding includes \$8.5 billion in American Rescue Plan (ARP) resources for providers who serve rural Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), or Medicare patients, and an additional \$17 billion for Provider Relief Fund (PRF) Phase 4 for a broad range of providers who can document revenue loss and expenses associated with the pandemic.

\*September 10- [Remarks by HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra at the White House Competition Council Meeting](#). "Good morning, everyone. It's a pleasure to join all of you for the inaugural convening of the White House Competition Council. I want to thank President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris for their vision on this issue. And Brian Deese, for leading today's important discussion. A little more than two months ago, President Biden stood in the State Dining Room and called on all federal agencies to promote competition in our economy."

\*September 10- [OCR Resolves Twentieth Investigation in HIPAA Right of Access Initiative with \\$80,000 Settlement](#). The Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announces the resolution of its twentieth investigation in its HIPAA Right of Access Initiative. OCR created this initiative to support individuals' right to timely access their health records at a reasonable cost under the HIPAA Privacy Rule.

\*September 10- [Statement by HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra on the 20th Anniversary of September 11<sup>th</sup>](#). Twenty years ago, our nation was shaken by the worst terrorist attack in our history. Nearly 3,000 people were killed and thousands more injured. The world we once knew changed that day. We will never forget what happened on 9/11. Nor will we forget our troops and their families and the sacrifice they have made these past two decades to defend our

freedom. We honor their memory. We pray for their families. We are forever inspired by their courage. We are inspired by the courage of every hero who saved lives on behalf our nation.

\*September 10- [Biden-Harris Administration Awards Texas Up to \\$5 Million to Transform Delivery of Rural Health Care](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) awarded the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (the Commission) an initial \$2 million to address disparities in health equity by improving access to quality health care in rural communities.

\*September 10- [Biden-Harris Administration Awards Washington Up to \\$5 Million to Transform Delivery of Rural Health Care](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) awarded the Washington State Healthcare Authority an initial \$2 million to address disparities in health equity by improving access to quality health care in rural communities.

\*September 10- [Biden-Harris Administration Invests \\$20 Million in American Rescue Plan Funding to Improve Access to Affordable and Comprehensive Health Insurance](#). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), is awarding \$20 million in American Rescue Plan (ARP) grant funding to State-based Marketplaces (SBMs) to increase consumer access to affordable, comprehensive health insurance coverage. The grants will be used by 21 SBMs to modernize IT systems and/or conduct targeted consumer outreach activities to help make health care coverage enrollment smoother. As a result, consumers will have access to increased financial assistance and eligibility determinations will be made faster.

\*September 10- [Biden-Harris Administration Awards Alabama Up to \\$5 Million to Transform Delivery of Rural Health Care](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) awarded the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) an initial \$2 million to address disparities in health equity by improving access to quality health care in rural communities.

\*September 10- [Biden-Harris Administration Awards South Dakota Up to \\$5 Million to Transform Delivery of Rural Health Care](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) awarded the South Dakota Department of Social Services an initial \$2 million to address disparities in health equity by improving access to quality health care in rural communities.

\*September 10- [Biden-Harris Administration Issues Proposed Rules to Promote Transparency in Air Ambulance Costs, Agent and Broker Compensation](#). The U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services (HHS), Labor, and the Treasury (collectively, the Departments), along with the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), are announcing proposed rules that would require plans, issuers, and providers of air ambulance services to submit detailed data regarding air ambulance services specified in the reporting requirements of the No Surprises Act. The rules additionally outline the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) authority to fully enforce Title I (the No Surprises Act) and Title II (Transparency) of Division BB of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, in states that do not have the authority to enforce or fail to substantially enforce one or more of the provisions, and would help consumers

understand the compensation being paid to agents and brokers who help them select health insurance. This is the latest regulatory action in a series of rulemaking implementing the No Surprises Act.

\*September 13- [SAMHSA Awards \\$123 Million in Grants for Multifront Approach to Combat the Nation's Overdose Epidemic](#). The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is awarding more than \$123 million in funding through six grant programs to provide multifaceted support to communities and health care providers as the Nation continues to combat the overdose epidemic. These SAMHSA grant programs reflect the agency's and Biden-Harris administration's ongoing mission to connect people who have substance use disorders (SUD) to culturally appropriate, evidence-based treatments and supports.

\*September 15- [Biden-Harris Administration Announces Record-Breaking 12.2 Million People Are Enrolled in Coverage Through the Health Care Marketplaces](#). A new report released today by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) shows that more than 2.8 million people newly gained access to affordable health care under the Biden-Harris Administration through the 2021 Special Enrollment Period (SEP) on HealthCare.gov and State-based Marketplaces.. With the gains made during the SEP, there are now a record-breaking 12.2 million people enrolled in the federal and state marketplaces. Additionally, there is historic enrollment today through Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) with over 82.3 million people relying on these programs as of April 2021.

\*September 16- [HHS Awards Over \\$48 Million to Health Centers for Ending the HIV Epidemic in the U.S. Initiative](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), awarded over \$48 million to 271 HRSA-supported health centers across 26 states, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia to expand HIV prevention and treatment, including pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) related services, outreach, and care coordination.

## Fact Sheet

\*September 10- [Air Ambulance NPRM – Fact Sheet](#). On September 10, 2021, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the Department of Labor (DOL), and the Department of the Treasury (Treasury) (collectively, the Departments), along with the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), released a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM), entitled "Reporting Requirements Regarding Air Ambulance Services, Agent and Broker Disclosures, and Provider Enforcement."

## Blogs

\*September 13- [Medicare Coverage of Innovative Technologies \(MCIT\)](#)- Dr. Lee A. Fleisher, Chief Medical Officer and Director of the Center for Clinical Standards and Quality (CCSQ). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is committed to ensuring people on Medicare have quicker access to innovative medical technologies for life-threatening or irreversibly debilitating diseases – like cancer and heart disease.

\*September 15- [Guard your card: How to protect your Medicare card](#). Protect yourself by protecting your Medicare card! The next Medicare Open Enrollment Period (October 15 – December 7) is coming fast, which means con artists may try to steal your identity and commit [Medicare fraud](#). Medicare has taken actions to make Medicare cards safer by replacing Social Security Numbers with more secure ID numbers. But even with those efforts, fraudsters may still try to take advantage of you during Open Enrollment.

*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)*