



## CMS Snapshot

**September 30-October 7, 2021**

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, September 30 through 2pm Thursday, October 7, 2021.

### News Releases

\*October 4- [Missouri Medicaid Expansion Brings Quality Essential Health Coverage to More than 275,000 Missourians](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced today that approximately 275,000 Missourians are now eligible for comprehensive health coverage, thanks to Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act. Through the American Rescue Plan (ARP), Missouri will be eligible to receive an estimated \$968 million in additional federal funding for its Medicaid program over the next two years.

\*October 4- [Kentucky, Maine, and New Mexico Launch State Marketplaces for 2022 Coverage](#). The Department of Health and Human Services, through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), congratulates Kentucky, Maine, and New Mexico on successfully transitioning from HealthCare.gov to their own State-based Marketplaces for the 2022 plan year. These State-based Marketplaces include kynect, CoverME.gov, and beWellnm. This transition allows these states to continue to build on their efforts to meet the specific needs of their residents, including work they've done over the last year to assist consumers with finding and understanding their health care coverage options, particularly in underserved and underinsured communities.

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year. These State-based Marketplaces include kynect, CoverME.gov, and beWellnm. This transition allows these states to continue to build on their efforts to meet the specific needs of their residents, including work they've done over the last year to assist consumers with finding and understanding their health care coverage options, particularly in underserved and underinsured communities. It also reflects the Biden-Harris Administration's broader commitment to ensuring that every American has access to quality, affordable health care.

\*October 4- [HHS Issues Final Regulation Aimed at Ensuring Access to Equitable, Affordable, Client-Centered, Quality Family Planning Services](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued a final rule to strengthen the Title X family planning program, fulfilling the Biden-Harris Administration's commitment to restore access to equitable, affordable, client-centered, quality family planning services. For more than half a century, Title X family planning clinics have played a critical role in ensuring access to a broad range of family planning and preventive health services including breast and cervical cancer screening and STI/HIV testing for than 190 million low-income or uninsured individuals. Title X is the only federal grant program dedicated solely to providing individuals with comprehensive family planning and related preventive health services.

\*October 5- [Francis Collins to step down as director of the National Institutes of Health](#). Francis S. Collins, M.D., Ph.D., today announced his decision to end his tenure as the director of the National Institutes of Health by the end of the year. Dr. Collins is the longest serving presidentially appointed NIH director, having served three U.S. presidents over more than 12 years.

\*October 5- [New HHS Report: Vaccination Linked to a Reduction of Over a Quarter Million COVID-19 Cases, 100,000 Hospitalizations, and 39,000 Deaths Among Seniors](#). A new report from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) shows that COVID-19 vaccinations may have helped prevent hundreds of thousands of new COVID-19 infections and tens of thousands of deaths among seniors. The study, which was conducted by researchers with HHS's Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE), found that vaccinations were linked to a reduction of approximately 265,000 COVID-19 infections, 107,000 hospitalizations, and 39,000 deaths among Medicare beneficiaries between January and May 2021.

\*October 5- [U.S. Attorney's Office and HHS Office for Civil Rights Settle Disability Discrimination Case with Backus Hospital](#). The Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), in partnership with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Connecticut (DOJ), entered into a Voluntary Resolution Agreement with Backus Hospital, to ensure effective communication with individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing.

\*October 5- [HHS Awards \\$2.21 Billion in Fiscal Year 2021 to Help Americans Access HIV Care, Support Services, and Medication](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced approximately \$2.21 billion in Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program funding for cities, counties, states, and local community-based organizations in fiscal year (FY) 2021. This funding, through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), supports a comprehensive system of HIV primary medical care, medication, and essential support services critical to improving the health outcomes of nearly 560,000 people with HIV in the United States.

\*October 6- [Readout of DOJ, HHS Listening Session on the Bipartisan COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act with Organizations Representing Communities Impacted by Hate](#). Yesterday, Attorney General Merrick B. Garland and Secretary of Health and Human Services Xavier Becerra co-hosted a listening session with stakeholders on the bipartisan COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act, which was signed into law by President Biden on May 20. Under the legislation, the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), in coordination with the COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force and community-based organizations, are required to issue guidance aimed at raising awareness of hate crimes during the COVID-19 pandemic. The session was moderated by Associate Attorney General Vanita Gupta.

\*October 7- [HHS Unveils Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan and Policy Statement](#). Today, as part of President Joe Biden's *whole-of-government* approach to confronting the climate crisis, the *Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)* released its Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan to bolster resilience of its operations and assets from the accelerating impacts of climate change. In support of Executive Order 14008, [Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad](#), HHS joins 20 other federal agencies in releasing their corresponding plans, also referred to as the Climate Action Plans (CAP).

## Fact Sheet

\*September 30- [Requirements Related to Surprise Billing; Part II Interim Final Rule with Comment Period](#). On September 30, 2021, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the Department of Labor, and the Department of the Treasury (collectively, the Departments), along with the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), released an interim final rule with comment period, entitled "Requirements Related to Surprise Billing; Part II." This rule is related to Title I (the No Surprises Act) of Division BB of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, and establishes new protections from surprise billing and excessive cost sharing for consumers receiving health care items/services.

## Blog

\*October 1- [Stay in the know with Marketplace reminders](#). Connect with the Marketplace today, so you don't miss out on deadline reminders and useful tips. Open Enrollment for 2022 Marketplace coverage starts November 1, 2021 — it will be here before you know it!

\*October 1- [Get ready! Medicare's Open Enrollment starts October 15](#). You can enroll in Medicare health and drug plans from October 15 – December 7. Get ready for Medicare's Open Enrollment with these 5 tips.

\*October 7- [Why enroll in 2022 Marketplace coverage?](#) Open Enrollment for 2022 Marketplace coverage runs November 1 – January 15. Here's why you should consider enrolling in coverage.

*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)*