



CMS Snapshot

December 23-30, 2021

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, December 23 through 2pm December 30, 2021.

News Releases

*December 27- [HHS Emphasizes Healthy Aging to Delay Onset of Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias](#). Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra today announced the release of the annual update to the Department's [National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease](#), which for the first time includes a new goal focused on work being done to promote healthy aging and reduce the risks that may contribute to the onset of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias.

*December 28- [New Medicaid Option Promotes Enhanced Mental Health, Substance Use Crisis Care](#). The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), is working with states to promote access to Medicaid services for people with mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) crises. Authorized under President Biden's American Rescue Plan (ARP), states have a new option for supporting community-based mobile crisis intervention services for individuals with Medicaid.

*December 28- [HHS to Make Coverage More Accessible and Affordable for Millions of Americans in 2023](#). The Biden-Harris Administration today released the Notice of Benefit and Payment Parameters 2023 Proposed Rule, which would make it easier for millions of consumers to find affordable, comprehensive health coverage in 2023. Among the many policies it advances, the proposed rule aims to improve shopping for health care coverage, establish rules to ensure people can access care, and advance health equity for consumers purchasing Marketplace coverage. Collectively, these proposals build on the Biden-Harris Administration's priority to build on the Affordable Care Act (ACA), lower health care costs, and make coverage options more equitable.

*December 28- [New Medicaid Option Promotes Enhanced Mental Health, Substance Use Crisis Care](#). The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), is working with states to promote access to Medicaid services for people with mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) crises. Authorized under President

Biden's American Rescue Plan (ARP), states have a new option for supporting community-based mobile crisis intervention services for individuals with Medicaid. Mobile crisis intervention services are essential tools to meet people in crisis where they are and rapidly provide critical services to people experiencing mental health or substance use crises by connecting them to a behavioral health specialist 24 hours per day, 365 days a year.

*December 29- [CMS Announces Extensions of CalAIM to Support Greater Health Equity Across Communities](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) approved the California Department of Health Care Services' (DHCS') request for a five-year extension of its Medicaid section 1115 demonstration and a five-year extension of its Medicaid managed care section 1915(b) waiver. Both were scheduled to expire on December 31, 2021. The demonstration and managed care 1915(b) combination, re-named "California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal" (CalAIM), includes important provisions to advance health equity, fund key services, like home and community-based services (HCBS) for underserved communities, and improve access to care.

*December 29- [Two New Over-the-Counter At-Home COVID-19 Tests Brought to U.S. Market Quickly by Biden-Harris Administration](#). The Biden-Harris Administration has brought two new over-the-counter, at-home COVID-19 tests to the U.S. market. The tests, one manufactured by [SD Biosensor and distributed by Roche](#) and the other manufactured by [Siemens](#), have received emergency use authorization (EUA) by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) after being evaluated through the Administration's new accelerated pathway to support FDA review of tests with potential for large-scale manufacturing that the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) [announced just two months ago](#).

Fact Sheets

*December 28- [HHS Notice of Benefit and Payment Parameters for 2023 Proposed Rule Fact Sheet](#). In the HHS Notice of Benefit and Payment Parameters for 2023 Proposed Rule released today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) proposed standards for issuers and Marketplaces, as well as requirements for agents, brokers, web brokers, and issuers assisting consumers with enrollment through Marketplaces that use the federal platform.

Blogs

*December 27- Launching Partnerships and "LymeX ECHO" to Drive Diagnostics Innovation for Lyme Disease. We must work together to protect the health and well-being of the estimated [476,000 Americans diagnosed and treated for Lyme disease annually](#). OASH InnovationX is forming and supporting partnerships and collaborations for innovation, emerging technologies, and data-driven government to address the growing threat of Lyme and other

tick-borne diseases. A multidisciplinary set of stakeholders must be activated and engaged to successfully prevent and control Lyme and other vector-borne diseases in humans. We are highlighting two agencies that we are excited to partner with to address the complex challenges presented by Lyme. These partnerships will help reach our ultimate goal for vector-borne disease to no longer threaten human health and well-being.

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