



CMS Snapshot

September 10-17, 2020

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, September 10 through 2pm Thursday, September 17, 2020.

News Releases

*September 14- [CMS releases Part I of the 2022 Medicare Advantage and Part D Advance Notice](#). Today, CMS is releasing Part I of the 2022 Medicare Advantage Advance Notice to provide plans with earlier notification of proposed payment changes. This announcement of Medicare Advantage and Part D payment methodologies is being made approximately three months earlier than usual to provide Medicare Advantage organizations and Part D sponsors more time to take this information into consideration as they prepare their bids for 2022.

*September 14- [HHS Invests Nearly \\$115 Million to Combat the Opioid Crisis in Rural Communities](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) awarded approximately \$25 million to 80 award recipients across 36 states and two territories as part of the [Rural Communities Opioid Response Program \(RCORP\)](#). RCORP is a multi-year HRSA initiative to reduce morbidity and mortality of substance use disorder (SUD) and opioid use disorder (OUD) in high-risk rural communities. Today's announcement builds upon HRSA's RCORP awards made this August, reflecting a total fiscal year 2020 investment of nearly \$115 million.

*September 15- [OCR Settles Five More Investigations in HIPAA Right of Access Initiative](#). The Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announces that it has settled five more investigations in its HIPAA Right of Access Initiative this year. OCR announced this initiative as an enforcement priority in 2019 to support individuals' right to timely access to their health records at a reasonable cost under the HIPAA Privacy Rule. The five settlements announced below bring OCR's total to seven completed enforcement actions under the Right of Access Initiative.

*September 15- [CMS Releases CHART Model Notice of Funding Opportunity, Encourages Rural Communities to Apply](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the Community Health Access and Rural Transformation (CHART) Model Community Transformation Track. The Community

Transformation Track will provide up-front funding to up to 15 rural communities across the country.

*September 15- [CMS Issues New Roadmap for States to Accelerate Adoption of Value-Based Care to Improve Quality of Care for Medicaid Beneficiaries](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued guidance to state Medicaid directors designed to advance the adoption of value-based care strategies across their healthcare systems and align provider incentives across payers. Under value-based care, providers are reimbursed based on their ability to improve quality of care in a cost-effective manner or lower costs while maintaining standards of care, rather than the volume of care they provide.

*September 16- [CMS Releases Medicaid and CHIP T-MSIS Data to Provide Public Access and Transparency into Program Performance](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released updated Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) data that is used for monitoring program performance and analyzing state and federal payments for services. The Transformed Medicaid Statistical Information System (T-MSIS) data provides information on key topics including service utilization and spending, and supports research and analysis that helps improve quality of care for beneficiaries.

*September 16- [Independent Nursing Home COVID-19 Commission Findings Validate Unprecedented Federal Response](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) received the final report from the independent Coronavirus Commission for Safety and Quality in Nursing Homes (Commission), which was facilitated by MITRE. CMS also released an overview of the robust public health actions the agency has taken to date to combat the spread of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in nursing homes.

*September 16- [CMS announces launch of 2020 flu season campaign, providing partner resources](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services kicked off its 2020-2021 flu season campaign with new resources to encourage people with Medicare or other CMS health care programs to get their flu shot. This year, CMS is taking additional actions to protect the health of the nation's seniors from the flu and its associated health complications.

*September 16- [HHS Secretary Azar Declares Public Health Emergency in Oregon Due to Wildfires](#). Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Alex Azar today declared a public health emergency in Oregon due to wildfires, following President Trump's emergency declaration for the state. The public health emergency [declaration](#) and related [waiver](#) determination give healthcare providers and suppliers greater flexibility in meeting the health needs of Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries affected by the wildfires.

*September 16- [Trump Administration Releases COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Strategy](#). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Department of Defense (DoD) today released two documents outlining the Trump Administration's detailed strategy to deliver safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine doses to the American people as quickly and reliably as possible.

*September 17- [CMS Offers Comprehensive Support for Oregon due to Wildfires](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) today announced efforts underway to support Oregon in response to wildfires across the state. On September 16, 2020, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Alex Azar declared a public health emergency (PHE) in Oregon, retroactive to September 8, 2020. CMS is working to ensure hospitals and other facilities can continue operations and provide access to care despite the effects of the wildfires.

*September 17- [HHS Congratulates NYSS Champions for Promoting Participation in Youth Sports](#). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the President's Council on Sports, Fitness and Nutrition (PCSFN) are pleased to recognize the National Youth Sports Strategy (NYSS) Champion organizations for their work promoting youth sports participation and supporting the NYSS. The NYSS is the first federal roadmap with actionable strategies to increase participation in youth sports, encourage regular physical activity, including active play, and promote good nutrition for all Americans.

Fact Sheets

*September 14- [2022 Medicare Advantage Advance Notice Part I – Risk Adjustment](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released Part I of the Contract Year (CY) 2022 Advance Notice of Methodological Changes for Medicare Advantage Capitation Rates and Part C and Part D Payment Policies (the Advance Notice), which contains key information about the Part C CMS-Hierarchical Condition Categories (HCC) risk adjustment model and the use of encounter data for CY 2022.

*September 15- [Value-based Care State Medicaid Directors Letter](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is releasing guidance for states on how to advance value-based care (VBC) across their healthcare systems, with a particular emphasis on Medicaid populations, and to share pathways for adoption of such approaches. CMS has made a strong commitment to advancing VBC in Medicare for its 61.7 million enrollees.

*September 16- [Additional Medicaid and CHIP T-MSIS Analytic Files Data Release](#). Given the primary role that Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) serve as the backbone of our nation's safety net health care system, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has made significant investments in these programs' information technology and data analytic infrastructure. These investments are designed to improve access to high-quality, timely Medicaid and CHIP data to ensure robust monitoring and oversight of these vital programs that provide healthcare coverage to more than 73 million Americans.

Blogs

*September 10- [Marketplace health benefits & coverage: What to know](#). All plans offered in the Marketplace, cover a set of 10 [essential health benefits](#), including ambulatory patient services, emergency care, and pregnancy, maternity, and newborn care.

*September 14- [Take advantage of your flu shot—more important than ever this year](#). Getting your flu shot will be more important than ever this year. Be sure to take action against the flu and protect yourself and your loved ones by getting a [flu shot](#).

*September 14- [Avoid the Part D late enrollment penalty—keep creditable prescription drug coverage](#). Do you have creditable prescription drug coverage? It's drug coverage that's expected to pay, on average, at least as much as Medicare's standard prescription drug coverage. It could be drug coverage you get from a current or former employer or union, or from TRICARE, the Indian Health Service, or the Department of Veterans Affairs.

*September 17- [Get the flu shot this fall](#). The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends everyone 6 months and older get a yearly flu shot by the end of October. By getting the shot, you're helping to lower the spread of flu-related illnesses, hospitalizations, and even death.

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