



## CMS Snapshot

**July 2- 9, 2020**

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, July 2 through 2pm Thursday, July 9 2020.


### News Releases

\*July 2- [Indian Health Service Announces National Expansion of the Community Health Aide Program](#). The Indian Health Service is announcing the national expansion of the Community Health Aide Program. The program provides education and training of tribal community health providers to increase access to quality health care, health promotion and disease prevention services.

\*July 6- [CMS Proposes Medicare Payment Changes to Support Innovation and Increased Access for Dialysis in the Home Setting](#). The Trump Administration took dramatic steps to support access to home dialysis through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) proposed changes to the Medicare End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Prospective Payment System (PPS). Building on President Trump's Executive Order on Advancing American Kidney Health, CMS is proposing that certain new and innovative equipment and supplies used for dialysis treatment of patients with ESRD in the home would qualify for an additional Medicare payment.

\*July 6- [Assistant Secretary for Health Admiral Brett P. Giroir, M.D., Statement on FDA EUA Approval of the BD Veritor Portable, Rapid Point-of-Care Antigen Test to Detect SARS-CoV-2](#). Today, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration granted an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for a rapid, point-of-care, SARS-CoV-2 diagnostic test BD Veritor Plus System. In response, Assistant Secretary for Health and COVID-19 Testing Coordinator Admiral Brett P. Giroir, M.D., issued the following statement.

\*July 7- [HHS, DOD Collaborate with Novavax to Produce Millions of COVID-19 Investigational Vaccine Doses in Commercial-Scale Manufacturing Demonstration Projects](#). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Department of Defense (DoD) today jointly announced a \$1.6 billion agreement with Novavax, Inc. of Gaithersburg, Maryland, to demonstrate commercial-scale manufacturing of the company's COVID-19 investigational vaccine. By funding this manufacturing effort, the federal government will own the 100 million doses of investigational vaccine expected to result from the demonstration projects.

\*July 7- [HHS, DOD Collaborate with Regeneron on Large-Scale Manufacturing Demonstration Project of COVID-19 Investigational Therapeutic Treatment](#). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Department of Defense (DoD ) today announced an agreement with Regeneron, Inc. of Tarrytown, New York, to demonstrate commercial-scale manufacturing of the company's COVID-19 investigational anti-viral antibody treatment, REGN-COV2. By funding this manufacturing effort, the federal government will own the doses expected to result from the demonstration project.

\*July 7- [HHS Launches 'Surge' COVID-19 Testing in Hotspot Jurisdictions in Florida, Louisiana and Texas](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is announcing free COVID-19 testing in Jacksonville, Florida; Baton Rouge, Louisiana; and Edinburg, Texas. Surge testing efforts will temporarily increase federal support to communities where there has been a recent and intense level of new cases and hospitalizations related to the ongoing outbreak.

\*July 8- [Secretary Azar Statement on Little Sisters of the Poor Supreme Court Ruling](#). Today's ruling is a major victory for President Trump's defense of religious liberty and protects Americans of faith who provide vital healthcare and social services to millions of Americans, especially the needy and vulnerable. It is a shame that nuns ever had to go to the Supreme Court to ensure they can care for the elderly poor without violating their consciences, but thanks to their courageous advocacy and the leadership of President Trump, they – and all Americans of faith – have now triumphed. We can advance the goal of protecting access to healthcare and social services, while simultaneously protecting and respecting sincerely held religious beliefs and moral convictions. The Trump Administration took action to vindicate the rights of religious and moral people to be free from unnecessary government burdens, and the court has upheld the Administration's action.

\*July 9- [HHS Awards More Than \\$21 Million to Support Health Centers' COVID-19 Response](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), awarded more than \$21 million to support health centers' COVID-19 response efforts. The majority of this investment—\$17 million—supports 78 Health Center Program look-alikes (LALs) with funding to expand capacity for COVID-19 testing.

## Fact Sheet

\*July 6- [End Stage Renal Disease \(ESRD\) Prospective Payment System \(PPS\) Calendar Year \(CY\) 2021 Proposed Rule \(CMS-1732-P\) Fact Sheet](#). On July 6, 2020, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a proposed rule that proposes to update payment policies and rates under the End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Prospective Payment System (PPS) for renal dialysis services furnished to beneficiaries on or after January 1, 2021. This rule also proposes updates to the acute kidney injury (AKI) dialysis payment rate for renal dialysis services furnished by ESRD facilities to individuals with AKI and proposes changes to the ESRD Quality Incentive Program (QIP).

## Blog

\*July 2- [Moving may impact your health coverage](#). Summer is a popular time for moving. Depending on whether you move to a different state, your move may impact your current health plan.

\*July 9- [Continuing Progress in the Fight against the Opioid Crisis](#). The COVID-19 pandemic has taken a devastating toll on Americans across the country, whether in lives lost or economic impacts, and it has particularly affected our fellow citizens who have the most vulnerabilities, including the elderly and communities of color. We've been forced to adjust and adapt our daily lives in innumerable ways, while significant public health resources have had to be redirected to help us meet and beat this unprecedented pandemic.

*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)*