



CMS Snapshot

November 18-24, 2021

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, November 18 through 12pm Wednesday, November 24, 2021.

News Releases

*November 18- [HHS Takes Action to Prevent Discrimination and Strengthen Civil Rights](#).

Washington D.C. – Today, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) through the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) and Office for Civil Rights (OCR), announced actions to further civil rights and equal opportunity for all people, irrespective of their sexual orientation, gender identity, and religion. HHS through OCR and ACF reestablished its commitment to furthering nondiscrimination and upholding the law by rescinding inappropriate, overly broad waivers issued by the prior Administration.

*November 19- [Biden-Harris Administration Announces Steps to Protect Consumers and Improve Ground Ambulance Billing Practices Through No Surprises Act Implementation](#). Today, the Biden-Harris Administration unveiled details about the establishment of a new federal advisory committee, the Ground Ambulance and Patient Billing (GAPB) Advisory Committee. As mandated through the No Surprises Act, the GAPB Advisory Committee will be charged with providing recommendations to the Secretaries of Health and Human Services (HHS), Labor, and Treasury on ways to protect consumers from exorbitant charges and balance billing when using ground ambulance services.

*November 19- [Statements by HHS Leaders Commemorating Transgender Day of Remembrance on November 20, 2021](#). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) recognizes Transgender Day of Remembrance on Saturday, November 20 in memory of the lives of transgender people tragically lost to violence in the last year, and the countless transgender people who face discrimination, violence, and harassment. We must honor those who have lost their lives to anti-transgender violence with action.

*November 19- [Statement from HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra: All Adults Are Now Eligible for COVID-19 Booster Shots](#). On the heels of the FDA and CDC decisions to expand COVID-19 booster shots to all adults, HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra issued following statement.

*November 22- [New HHS Report Highlights How the No Surprises Act Will Prevent Surprise Medical Bills Faced by Millions of Americans](#). A new report from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) highlights that millions of Americans with private health insurance experience some kind of surprise medical billing. The report, which was written by researchers in HHS's Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE), found that surprise medical bills are relatively common among privately-insured patients and can average more than \$1,200 for services provided by anesthesiologists, \$2,600 for surgical assistants, and \$750 for childbirth-related care.

*November 22- [HHS Announces Record Health Care Workforce Awards in Rural and Underserved Communities](#). As Vice President Harris announced earlier today, the Biden-Harris Administration has awarded the largest field strength in history for its health workforce loan repayment and scholarship programs thanks to a new \$1.5 billion investment, including \$1 billion in supplemental American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding and other mandatory and annual appropriations. More than 22,700 primary care clinicians now serve in the nation's underserved tribal, rural and urban communities, including nearly 20,000 National Health Service Corps (NHSC) members, more than 2,500 Nurse Corps nurses, and approximately 250 awardees under a new program, the Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Recovery Loan Repayment Program.

*November 23- [Biden-Harris Administration Begins Distributing American Rescue Plan Rural Funding to Support Providers Impacted by Pandemic](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), began distributing \$7.5 billion in American Rescue Plan (ARP) Rural payments to providers and suppliers who serve rural Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and Medicare beneficiaries. The Biden-Harris Administration is committed to providing much-needed relief to rural providers who historically operate on thin margins and have had their financial challenges further exacerbated during the pandemic.

*November 23- [HHS Announces \\$35 Million for Telehealth in the Title X Family Planning Program](#). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced [the availability of \\$35 million in American Rescue Plan \(ARP\)](#) funding to enhance and expand the telehealth infrastructure and capacity of Title X family planning providers. Title X is the only federal grant program dedicated solely to providing individuals with comprehensive family planning and related preventive health services in communities across the U.S.

*November 24- [News Alert: Marketplace Weekly Enrollment Snapshot: Week 3](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is reporting that in week three of the 2022 Open Enrollment Period, approximately 810,000 people selected individual market plans in the 33 states that utilize the [HealthCare.gov](#) platform. During the Open Enrollment Period, to date, approximately 2,435,000 people have selected individual market plans on [HealthCare.gov](#).

*November 24- [Statement by HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra on OMB Release of Federal COVID-19 Vaccination Data](#). In response to the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) release of federal COVID-19 vaccination data for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and other federal agencies, HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra released the following statement.

Blog

*November 18- [Don't miss out: 1 month to get Marketplace insurance that starts Jan 1](#). Important: Act by December 15, 2021 for coverage that starts January 1. This means you have less than one month to enroll in or change Marketplace health insurance for coverage that starts January 1, 2022.

Fact Sheets

*November 24- [Marketplace Weekly Enrollment Snapshot: Week 3](#). In week three of the 2022 Open Enrollment Period, approximately 810,000 people selected individual market plans through the 33 states that use the [HealthCare.gov](#) platform. During the Open Enrollment Period, to date, approximately 2,435,000 people have selected individual market plans on [HealthCare.gov](#). As in past years, enrollment weeks are measured Sunday through Saturday.

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