



## CMS Snapshot

### July 29-August 5, 2021

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, July 29 through 2pm Thursday, August 5, 2021.

#### News Releases

\*July 29- [HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra, CMS Administrator Chiquita Brooks-LaSure on the 56th Anniversary of Medicare and Medicaid](#). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary, Xavier Becerra, and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid (CMS) Administrator, Chiquita Brooks-LaSure, released the following statements to mark the 56th anniversary of Medicare and Medicaid on July 30, 2021.

\*July 30- [CMS Proposes Rule to Support Home Care Workers Access to Benefits](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) proposed a rule today which would enable states to make payments to third parties on behalf of certain individual health care practitioners, including home care workers and personal care assistants. These changes would make it easier for those workers to obtain and retain health insurance, training, and other employee benefits, fulfilling a key promise made by President Biden on the campaign trail to support home care workers. The rule, if finalized, would foster a stable and qualified health care workforce by making it easier for such practitioners to access benefits customary for full-time employees.

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\*August 2- [CMS Final Rule Improves Health Equity, Access to Treatment, Hospital Readiness, and COVID-19 Vaccination Data Reporting of Hospital Workers](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Service (CMS) is taking action to drive value-based, person-centered care, and promote sustainability and readiness to respond to future public health emergencies in our

nation's hospitals through the Hospital Inpatient Prospective Payment System (IPPS)/ Long Term Care Hospital (LTCH) Prospective Payment System final rule released today.

\*August 4- [American Rescue Plan Lowered Health Costs for Millions of Americans Ahead of August 15 Deadline to Get Covered on HealthCare.gov](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released new data that shows returning consumers can save, on average, 40% off of their monthly premiums because of enhanced tax credits in the American Rescue Plan (ARP), which President Biden has proposed to extend as part of his [Build Back Better Agenda](#). Since the implementation of the tax credits on April 1, 2021, [34%](#) of new and returning consumers have found coverage for \$10 or less per month on HealthCare.gov. A state-by-state breakdown of savings is available here: <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/fact-sheets/2021-marketplace-special-enrollment-period-state-state-premium-savings-returning-consumers-american>

\*August 4- [Statement by HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra on the 24th Anniversary of the Children's Health Insurance Program \(CHIP\)](#). "I was proud to work on passing the bipartisan Children's Health Insurance Program in Congress in 1997. For more than two decades, CHIP has been a lifeline for millions of children and families across America. Along with Medicare and Medicaid, CHIP has kept children and families out of poverty and continues to provide the peace of mind to parents who know their children have access to quality health care they need. President Biden's Build Back Better plan will lead to transformational investments to make health care more accessible and affordable. At HHS, I will continue to strengthen CHIP and expand health coverage to all Americans and their families."

\*August 4- [Readout of the Sixth Covid-19 Health Equity Task Force Meeting](#). On Friday, July 30, COVID-19 Health Equity Chair Dr. Marcella Nunez-Smith, held the sixth COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force meeting to consider interim recommendations addressing future pandemic preparedness.

\*August 5- [Biden-Harris Administration Provides \\$90 Million to Improve Health Care in Rural Communities](#). The Biden-Harris Administration announced today that it is providing nearly \$90 million to help rural communities combat opioid use disorders (OUD) and other forms of substance use disorders (SUD), and to improve access to maternal and obstetrics care. This funding is being distributed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

## Fact Sheet

\*July 29- [Fiscal Year \(FY\) 2022 Hospice Payment Rate Update Final Rule \(CMS-1754-F\)](#). On July 29, 2021, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a final rule (CMS-1754-F) that updates Medicare hospice payments and the aggregate cap amount for FY 2022 in accordance with existing statutory and regulatory requirements. This rule rebases the hospice

labor shares and clarifies certain aspects of the hospice election statement addendum requirements. In addition, this rule finalizes changes to the Hospice Conditions of Participation (CoPs) and Hospice Quality Reporting Program (HQRP). The final rule also finalizes a Home Health Quality Reporting Program (HH QRP) policy that becomes effective on October 1, 2021, to prepare for public reporting beginning in January 2022.

\*July 29- [Fiscal Year \(FY\) 2022 Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility \(IRF\) Prospective Payment System \(PPS\) Final Rule \(CMS-1748-F\)](#). On July 29, 2021, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a final rule that will update Medicare payment policies and rates for facilities under the Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility (IRF) Prospective Payment System (PPS) and finalize policies under the IRF Quality Reporting Program (QRP) for fiscal year (FY) 2022. CMS is publishing this final rule consistent with the legal requirements to update Medicare payment policies for IRFs on an annual basis. FY 2022 IRF PPS payment rates and policies will be effective on October 1, 2021.

\*July 29- [Fiscal Year \(FY\) 2022 Inpatient Psychiatric Facility \(IPF\) Prospective Payment System \(PPS\) Final Rule \(CMS-1750-F\)](#). On July 29, 2021, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a final rule that updates Medicare payment policies and rates for the Inpatient Psychiatric Facility (IPF) Prospective Payment System (PPS) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 and finalizes changes to the IPF Quality Reporting Program (QRP). CMS is publishing this final rule consistent with the requirements to update Medicare payment policies for IPFs on an annual basis. This fact sheet discusses the major provisions of the final rule.

\*August 2- [Fiscal Year \(FY\) 2022 Medicare Hospital Inpatient Prospective Payment System \(IPPS\) and Long Term Care Hospital \(LTCH\) Rates Final Rule \(CMS-1752-F\)](#). On August 2, 2021, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued the final rule for fiscal year (FY) 2022 Medicare Hospital Inpatient Prospective Payment System (IPPS) and Long-Term Care Hospital (LTCH) Prospective Payment System (PPS). The final rule updates Medicare payment policies and rates for operating and capital-related costs of acute care hospitals and for certain hospitals and hospital units excluded from the IPPS for FY 2022.

\*August 4- [2021 Marketplace Special Enrollment Period State-by-State Premium Savings for Returning Consumers from the American Rescue Plan](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) reports that since the Special Enrollment Period became available on HealthCare.gov on February 15, more than 1.5 million Americans have enrolled in health coverage at HealthCare.gov. Additionally, more than 2.5 million current enrollees have returned to the Marketplace to find average savings of over \$40 per month, compared to their premiums prior to the ARP implementation. The table below shows the average premiums and savings by state before and after additional American Rescue Plan subsidies became available on April 1 through June 30.

## Blogs

\*August 2- [Get help with Medicare costs](#). If you have Medicare and you're facing challenges paying for health care, you may qualify for Medicare programs that can help you save money on drug and medical costs.

\*August 2- [Be proactive with your preventive care](#). Summer means warmer weather, trips to the pool, and fun in the sun. Make sure you stay healthy enough to enjoy it all by being proactive with your health. Take advantage of the many preventive services that Medicare offers at no cost to you, like screenings, shots or vaccines, and yearly "Wellness" visits. And if you haven't already, make sure to get the COVID-19 vaccine.

*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)*