



## CMS Snapshot

**December 9-16, 2021**

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, December 9 through 2pm December 16, 2021.

### News Releases

\*December 9- [Secretary Becerra Launches the Biden-Harris Administration's White House Initiative on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders \(Korean, Chinese, Simplified Chinese\)](#). Washington D.C. – Today, Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra launched the Biden-Harris Administration's White House Initiative on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders (WHIAANHPI) and announced U.S. Trade Representative Ambassador Katherine Tai as his co-chair of both the White House Initiative and the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders.

\*December 9- [HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra: 16-17 Year Olds Are Now Eligible for COVID-19 Booster Shots](#). Following the FDA and CDC decisions to expand Pfizer COVID-19 booster shots to 16 and 17 year-olds who received Pfizer as their primary vaccine, HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra issued this statement.

\*December 10- [ICYMI: HHS Actions to Improve Maternal Health Outcomes](#). This week, on December 7, 2021, the White House hosted the first-ever Maternal Health Day of Action with a nationwide call-to-action to address maternal mortality and morbidity. [Watch the White House Maternal Health Call to Action Summit and read Secretary Xavier Becerra's](#) remarks. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued a new report and made a number of announcements on policy changes and investments to support safe pregnancies and reduce health disparities across the nation. Please find a listing of these efforts below.

\*December 10- [Readout of Secretary Becerra's Trip to West Virginia to Highlight Biden-Harris Administration Plans to Build Back Better by Strengthening Rural and Behavioral Health, Substance Use Treatment, and More](#). Today, December 10, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra traveled to West Virginia to highlight Biden-Harris Administration plans to improve rural and behavioral health, substance use treatment, and more. During the trip, Secretary Becerra and Senator Manchin participated in a ribbon-

cutting ceremony for a rural health facility and held a behavioral health and substance use roundtable. Throughout the trip, they met with local leaders, advocates, and West Virginians to discuss health equity, bolstering medical supply chains, and the Build Back Better bill recently passed by lawmakers in the House.

\*December 14- [HHS Is Releasing \\$9 Billion in Provider Relief Fund Payments to Support Health Care Providers Affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), announced the distribution of approximately \$9 billion in Provider Relief Fund (PRF) Phase 4 payments to health care providers who have experienced revenue losses and expenses related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The average payment being announced today for small providers is \$58,000, for medium providers is \$289,000, and for large providers is \$1.7 million. More than 69,000 providers in all 50 states, Washington, D.C., and eight territories will receive Phase 4 payments. Payments will start to be made later this week.

\*December 14- [CMS Encourages Hospitals to Implement Patient Safety Best Practices to Improve Maternity Care and Outcomes](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is taking critical steps to ensure pregnant and postpartum individuals have access to equitable, comprehensive maternity care. In support of Vice President Kamala Harris' Call to Action to Reduce Maternal Mortality and Morbidity announced on December 7, 2021, CMS is encouraging hospitals to implement evidence-based patient safety practices for managing obstetric emergencies along with interventions to address other key contributors to maternal health disparities.

\*December 14- [ICYMI: HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra Traveled to West Virginia to Highlight Biden-Harris Administration Plans to Build Back Better by Strengthening Rural and Behavioral Health, Substance Use Treatment, and More](#). On Friday, December 10, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra joined Senator Manchin in West Virginia to highlight Biden-Harris Administration plans to strengthen rural and behavioral health, substance use treatment, and more.

\*December 15- [National Health Spending in 2020 Increases due to Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic](#). As with so many aspects of American life, the COVID-19 pandemic had a dramatic impact on the nation's health sector in 2020, driving a 9.7% growth in total national healthcare spending, bringing spending to \$4.1 trillion. This statistic is one of many health care expenditures presented in the 2020 National Health Expenditures (NHE) Report, prepared by the Office of the Actuary at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

\*December 16- [Readout of the Build Back Better \(BBB\) Investments in Universal Pre-K and Child Care Roundtable](#). Yesterday afternoon, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra hosted a virtual roundtable on the Build Back Better Investments in pre-K and child care with stakeholders from advocacy organizations and think tanks. Secretary Becerra emphasized that investments in pre-K and child care will be a game-changer for

working families and women—who have borne the brunt of the child care crisis during COVID-19 and long before.

## Blogs

\*December 16- [Apply now. 1 month to get 2022 Marketplace insurance](#). Important: Open Enrollment ends January 15, 2022. This means you have less than one month to enroll in or change Marketplace health insurance for 2022. Coverage starts February 1, 2022.

*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)*