



CMS Snapshot

October 28-November 4, 2021

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, October 28 through 2pm Thursday, November 4, 2021.

News Releases

*October 29- [New Report: Federal Health Insurance Options Helped Prevent Major Coverage Losses](#). Ahead of the November 1, 2021 start of the Open Enrollment Period at Healthcare.gov, a new report released from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) shows that Medicaid and health insurance from the federal Marketplace helped to prevent major coverage losses in 2020-2021 despite downward economic pressures related to the COVID-19 pandemic. HHS's analysis showed that efforts taken by the Biden-Harris Administration, such as the 2021 Special Enrollment Period, helped ensure health care for Americans remained in reach.

*October 29- [CMS Takes Decisive Steps to Reduce Health Care Disparities Among Patients with Chronic Kidney Disease and End-Stage Renal Disease](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is taking action to close health equity gaps by providing Medicare patients living with End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) with greater access to care. Through the ESRD Prospective Payment System (PPS) annual rulemaking, CMS is making changes to the ESRD Quality Incentive Program (QIP) and the ESRD Treatment Choices (ETC) Model, and updating ESRD PPS payment rates. The changes to the ETC Model policies aim to encourage dialysis facilities and health care providers to decrease disparities in rates of home dialysis and kidney transplants among ESRD patients with lower socioeconomic status, making the model one of the agency's first CMS Innovation Center models to directly address health equity.

*November 1- [HHS' Administration for Children and Families Awards more than \\$3.3 Billion to Help Individuals and Families with Heat Costs this Winter](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Office of Community Services (OCS) at the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), announced awarding \$3.37 billion in relief funds through the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program ([LIHEAP](#)) to help low-income individuals and families afford home heating costs this winter and cover unpaid utility bills. These funds will also help families make cost-effective home energy repairs. Along with \$4.5 billion in LIHEAP funds in the American Rescue Plan Act released in May, the historic level of

resources available to grantees will help mitigate the impact felt by families from rising home energy prices this winter.

*November 1- [Open Enrollment Kicks Off at HealthCare.gov With Record Low Premiums](#). Today marks the start of the HealthCare.gov Open Enrollment Period. This year, on top of providing health care plans at record-low costs, the Biden-Harris Administration has extended the Marketplace Open Enrollment Period by 30 days through January 15 to ensure everyone possible has enough time to get covered. To help communities with disproportionately high uninsurance rates, the Biden-Harris Administration has quadrupled its Navigator footprint of people who can assist with the process of getting covered. With 1500 Navigators, the Administration has made assistance available in nearly every county in the country.

*November 2- [CMS OPPTS/ASC Final Rule Increases Price Transparency, Patient Safety and Access to Quality Care](#). Today, in keeping with President Biden's Competition Executive Order, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is releasing a final rule that will further advance its commitment to increasing price transparency, holding hospitals accountable and ensuring consumers have the information they need to make fully informed decisions regarding their health care.

*November 2- [CMS Physician Payment Rule Promotes Greater Access to Telehealth Services, Diabetes Prevention Programs](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is announcing actions that will advance its strategic commitment to drive innovation to support health equity and high quality, person-centered care. CMS' Calendar Year (CY) 2022 Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) final rule will promote greater use of telehealth and other telecommunications technologies for providing behavioral health care services, encourage growth in the diabetes prevention program, and boost payment rates for vaccine administration. The final rule also advances programs to improve the quality of care for people with Medicare by incentivizing clinicians to deliver improved outcomes.

*November 2- [Biden-Harris Administration Improves Home Health Services for Older Adults and People with Disabilities](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a final rule that furthers CMS' strategic commitment to drive innovation that promotes comprehensive, person-centered care for older adults and people with disabilities by accelerating the shift from paying for home health services based on volume, to a system that incentivizes value and quality.

*November 3- [Coverage is Available for COVID-19 Vaccinations for Eligible Children Ages 5 through 11](#). Following the U.S. Food & Drug Administration's (FDA) recent action authorizing the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine for the prevention of COVID-19 in children 5 through 11 years of age and a recommendation from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is reminding eligible consumers that coverage is available without cost-sharing under Medicare, Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and in the commercial market for this critical protection from the

virus. As with all vaccines, the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine was tested thoroughly in this age group prior to its authorization for emergency use.

*November 4- [Biden-Harris Administration Issues Emergency Regulation Requiring COVID-19 Vaccination for Health Care Workers](#). The Biden-Harris Administration is requiring COVID-19 vaccination of eligible staff at health care facilities that participate in the Medicare and Medicaid programs. The emergency regulation issued by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) today protects those fighting this virus on the front lines while also delivering assurances to individuals and their families that they will be protected when seeking care.

*November 4- [IHS announces \\$46.4 million to fund behavioral health programs that serve American Indians and Alaska Natives](#). The Indian Health Service is announcing \$46.4 million in funding opportunities to address suicide, domestic violence, and substance abuse, and supporting an integrative approach to the delivery of behavioral health services for American Indians and Alaska Natives.

Fact Sheets

*October 29- [CY 2022 End Stage Renal Disease Prospective Payment System Final Rule \(CMS-1749-F\)](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a final rule that updates payment rates under the End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Prospective Payment System (PPS) for renal dialysis services furnished to beneficiaries on or after January 1, 2022. This rule also finalizes updates to the Acute Kidney Injury (AKI) dialysis payment rate for renal dialysis services furnished by ESRD facilities. Additionally, the rule finalizes modifications to the ESRD Treatment Choices (ETC) Model policies to encourage certain health care providers to decrease disparities in rates of home dialysis and kidney transplants among ESRD patients with lower socioeconomic status. This makes the model one of the agency's first CMS Innovation Center models to directly address health equity.

*November 2- [Final Policies for the Medicare Diabetes Prevention Program \(MDPP\) Expanded Model for the Calendar Year 2022 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule](#). On November 2, 2021, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued the Calendar Year (CY) 2022 Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) final rule, which finalizes changes to the Medicare Diabetes Prevention Program (MDPP) expanded model. These policies are intended to boost supplier enrollment, with the goal of increasing beneficiary participation and access to services that can help them develop and maintain healthy behaviors to prevent onset of type 2 diabetes.

*November 2- [Calendar Year \(CY\) 2022 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Final Rule](#). On November 2, 2021, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a final rule that includes updates on policy changes for Medicare payments under the Physician Fee Schedule (PFS), and other Medicare Part B issues, on or after January 1, 2022.

*November 2- [CMS Finalizes Calendar Year 2022 Home Health Prospective Payment System Rate Update; Home Health Value-Based Purchasing Model Expansion](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) acted to improve home health care for older adults and people with disabilities through a final rule that would accelerate the shift from paying for Medicare home health services based on volume to a system that pays for value. The rule finalizes a nationwide expansion of the successful Home Health Value- Based Purchasing (HHVBP) Model and makes updates to the Medicare Home Health Prospective Payment System (PPS) and the home infusion therapy services payment rates for Calendar Year (CY) 2022, in accordance with existing statutory and regulatory requirements.

*November 2- [CY 2022 Medicare Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System and Ambulatory Surgical Center Payment System Final Rule \(CMS-1753FC\)](#). On November 2, 2021, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) finalized Medicare payment rates for hospital outpatient and Ambulatory Surgical Center (ASC) services. In addition to updating the payment rates, the Calendar Year (CY) 2022 Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS) and ASC Payment System Final Rule includes policies that align with several key goals of the Administration, including addressing the health equity gap, fighting the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE), encouraging transparency in the health system, and promoting safe, effective, and patient-centered care.

Blogs

*November 01, 2021- [Starting today, enroll in or renew 2022 health coverage](#). Attention: Enroll in or renew 2022 health insurance today! You have through January 15 to apply for new 2022 health insurance, or renew, change, or update your 2021 health plan for 2022. Enroll by December 15, 2021 for coverage that starts January 1, 2022.

*November 4- [Quick tips: Choosing the right Marketplace plan for your household](#). Open Enrollment for 2022 is here and ends January 15. Plans have different premiums and out-of-pocket costs and may differ in covered services and benefits. Knowing a few things before you compare can simplify the process of choosing a plan.

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