



CMS Snapshot

December 14-21, 2023

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, December 14 through 2pm Thursday, December 21, 2023

News Releases

*December 15- [CMS Roundup \(Dec. 15, 2023\)](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) provides an at-a-glance summary of news from around the agency.

*December 15- [HHS to Improve Maternal Health Outcomes with New CMS Care Model that Expands Access to Services, Other Proven Maternal Health Approaches](#). *The Biden-Harris Administration, committed to addressing the nation's maternal health crisis, focuses on care to reduce disparities, improve outcomes for pregnant and postpartum women and their infants.* Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), announced innovative actions to improve maternal health and birth outcomes for pregnant and postpartum women and their infants through the new Transforming Maternal Health (TMaH) Model.

*December 15- [HHS' Office for Civil Rights Settles Multiple HIPAA Complaints With Optum Medical Care Over Patient Access to Records](#). *This Settlement Marks the 46th Enforcement Action in the OCR Right of Access Initiative.* Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office for Civil Rights (OCR), announced a settlement with Optum Medical Care of New Jersey (formerly known as Riverside Medical Group and Riverside Pediatric Group). Optum Medical Care is a multi-specialty physician group serving patients throughout New Jersey and Southern Connecticut. The settlement resolves multiple complaints filed with OCR concerning potential violations of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Privacy Rule's Right of Access provision.

*December 15- [Statement from Secretary Xavier Becerra and CMS Administrator Chiquita Brooks-LaSure on the CMS Call Center Contract](#). Today, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Administrator Chiquita Brooks-LaSure released the following statement on CMS's call center contract.

*December 15- [Guiding Principles Help Healthcare Community Address Potential Bias Resulting from Algorithms](#). *A new paper addresses the use of algorithms in healthcare, their impact on*

racial/ethnic disparities in care, and approaches to identify and mitigate biases. A paper published today in *JAMA Network Open* addresses the use of healthcare algorithms and provides the healthcare community with guiding principles to avoid repeating errors that have tainted the use of algorithms in other sectors. This work, conducted by a technical expert panel that included researchers at the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), supports the Biden Administration [Executive Order 14091](#), *Further Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through The Federal Government*, issued on February 16, 2023.

*December 18- [Biden-Harris Administration Releases New Medicaid and CHIP Renewal Data Showing the Role State Policy Choices Play in Keeping Kids Covered](#). *Sec. Becerra Calls on Nine States with the Highest Child Disenrollments to Immediately Take Up Proven Federal Flexibilities to Protect Children and Families; Biden-Harris Administration Extends Federal Flexibilities to States Until End of 2024.* Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released new data on state Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) enrollment changes among children and youth since full eligibility renewals for these programs restarted earlier this year.

*December 18- [New State by State Analysis on Impact of CMS Strategies for States to Protect Children and Youth Medicaid and CHIP Enrollment](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released a new federal analysis on state Medicaid and CHIP enrollment changes among children, youth aged 19-23, and families since states have resumed full eligibility renewals following the COVID-19 pandemic. The data below provides critical insight into the impact of state policy and operational choices to take up strategies and flexibilities offered by the Department to keep eligible individuals, particularly children and youth, enrolled in state Medicaid and CHIP programs.

*December 20- [HealthCare.gov Enrollment Exceeds 15 Million, Surpassing Previous Years' Milestones](#). *Biden-Harris Administration encourages everyone who needs affordable, quality health insurance to visit HealthCare.gov and sign up for coverage by the January 16 final deadline.* The Biden-Harris Administration announced today that the Affordable Care Act (ACA) Marketplace enrollment continues at a record-breaking pace. As of December 15, 2023, for HealthCare.gov states and December 9, 2023, for State-based Marketplaces, preliminary data projects that over 19 million consumers will enroll in 2024 coverage through the ACA Marketplaces — over 7 million more than when President Biden took office.

*December 21- [HHS and GSA Update Guidelines for Federal Safety Stations to Improve Health and Safety, Facilitate Overdose Prevention](#). *Expanding Access to Life-Saving Opioid Overdose Reversal Medications Like Naloxone and Hemorrhagic Control Like Stop the Bleed®.* Washington, D.C.- Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) announced the first [updated guidelines for safety stations in federal facilities](#) in the past 15 years. This expands the existing recommendation beyond automated external defibrillators (AED) to also include opioid reversal agents such as naloxone and hemorrhagic control such as Stop the Bleed® (STB).

Fact Sheets

*December 14- [CMS Letter to Plans and Pharmacy Benefit Managers](#). Dear Pharmacy Benefit Managers, Medicare Part D Plans, Medicaid Managed Care Plans, and Private Insurance Plans.

*December 18- [Federal Independent Dispute Resolution \(IDR\) Process Administrative Fee and Certified IDR Entity Fee Ranges Final Rule Fact Sheet](#). In the Federal Independent Dispute Resolution (IDR) Process Administrative Fee and Certified IDR Entity Fee Ranges final rule released today, the Departments of Health and Human Services, Labor, and the Treasury (the Departments) finalize fees associated with use of the Federal IDR process under the No Surprises Act (NSA), which was enacted as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (CAA).

Blog

*December 16- [Beat the deadline! Open Enrollment ends in 1 month](#). Act now — don't miss the January 16 deadline to apply for, re-enroll in, or change 2024 health insurance. This holiday season, give yourself the peace of mind that comes with taking care of your health.