



CMS Snapshot

July 16-23, 2020

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, July 16 through 2pm Thursday, July 23 2020.

News Releases

*July 17- [HHS To Begin Distributing \\$10 Billion in Additional Funding to Hospitals in High Impact COVID-19 Areas](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), is announcing it will begin distributing \$10 billion in a second round of high impact COVID-19 area funding to hospitals starting next week. As parts of the nation confront a recent surge in positive COVID-19 cases and hospitals elsewhere continue to recover and grapple with the financial hardships caused by the pandemic, HHS recognizes the need to quickly get these funds to frontline health care providers.

*July 20- [OCR Issues Guidance on Civil Rights Protections Prohibiting Race, Color, and National Origin Discrimination During COVID-19](#). Today, the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is issuing guidance to ensure that recipients of federal financial assistance understand that they must comply with applicable federal civil rights laws and regulations that prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, and national origin in HHS-funded programs during COVID-19. This Bulletin focuses on recipients' compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI).

*July 20- [HHS Protect: Frequently Asked Questions](#). At the beginning of the pandemic, it became clear that HHS needed a central way to make data collected by various operating divisions, including Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), and others, visible to first responders at federal, state, and local levels and we needed to collect this data as fast as possible.

*July 21- [HHS Announces National COVID-19 Testing Implementation Forum](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced a new program to capture feedback between federal officials and the private sector. The *National Testing Implementation Forum* will bring together representatives from key stakeholder groups to share information

and provide input to federal leaders about SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, testing and diagnostics.

*July 21- [OCR Resolves Religious Discrimination Complaint after Maryland Hospital System Ensures Patients Can Receive Religious Visitations During COVID-19](#). Today, the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at the U.S Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announces the resolution of a religious discrimination complaint against Prince George's Hospital Center of the University of Maryland Medical System (UMMS) after UMMS adopted new policies ensuring clergy access to patients for religious purposes during the COVID-19 pandemic.

*July 21- [OCR Resolves Complaint After Hospital Accommodates Medical Student's Religious Needs During COVID-19](#). Today, the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at the U.S Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is announcing the resolution of a complaint against Staten Island University Hospital (SIUH) in New York City after SIUH accommodated the needs for a medical student to keep a beard according to his faith while using Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) during the COVID-19 pandemic.

*July 22- [U.S. Government Engages Pfizer to Produce Millions of Doses of COVID-19 Vaccine](#). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Defense (DoD) today announced an agreement with U.S.-based Pfizer Inc. for large-scale production and nationwide delivery of 100 million doses of a COVID-19 vaccine in the United States following the vaccine's successful manufacture and approval. The agreement also allows the U.S. government to acquire an additional 500 million doses.

*July 22- [HHS and the American Society of Nephrology Announce Winners of \\$3 Million KidneyX Redesign Dialysis Phase 2 Prize Competition at KidneyX Summit](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the American Society of Nephrology (ASN) announced the [six winners](#) of the \$3 million KidneyX: Redesign Dialysis Phase 2 competition during the virtual [KidneyX Summit](#). Each recipient will receive \$500,000, recognizing the transformative work and creativity these innovators have brought to reimagining dialysis care.

*July 22- [Trump Administration Announces New Resources to Protect Nursing Home Residents Against COVID-19](#). As part of the unprecedented efforts taken by the Trump Administration, President Trump today announced several new Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) initiatives designed to protect nursing home residents from coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

*July 23- [Small Health Care Provider Fails to Implement Multiple HIPAA Security Rule Requirements](#). Metropolitan Community Health Services (Metro), doing business as Agape Health Services, has agreed to pay \$25,000 to the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and to adopt a corrective action plan to settle potential violations of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Security Rule. Metro is a Federally Qualified Health Center that provides a variety of discounted medical

services to the underserved population in rural North Carolina and these facts were taken into account in reaching this agreement.

Fact Sheet

*July 13- [Fact Sheet: SAMHSA 42 CFR Part 2 Revised Rule](#). The 42 CFR Part 2 regulations (Part 2) serve to protect patient records created by federally assisted programs for the treatment of substance use disorders (SUD). Part 2 has been revised to further facilitate better coordination of care in response to the opioid epidemic while maintaining its confidentiality protections against unauthorized disclosure and use.

Blog

*July 16- [Report life changes year-round](#). If you have Marketplace coverage and your income or household changes, update your application as soon as possible. These changes may affect the coverage or savings you're eligible for.

*July 21- [HFPP/Genetic Testing White Paper Blog](#). Genetic testing has revolutionized health care, opening new windows on prevention and new doors to the treatment of disease. Approximately ten new genetic tests enter the market every day, including those for prenatal screening, detecting hereditary traits linked to cancer, and selecting appropriate medications.

*July 22- [Announcing the HC3 Website!](#) The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is very excited to announce the launch of the Health Sector Cybersecurity Coordination Center (HC3) website, www.hhs.gov/HC3. The HC3 website is the next step in milestone on our mission to support the defense of the healthcare and public health sector's information technology infrastructure, by strengthening coordination and information sharing within the sector and by cultivating cybersecurity resilience, regardless of an organizations' technical capacity.

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