



CMS Snapshot

July 9-16, 2020

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, July 9 through 2pm Thursday, July 16 2020.

News Releases

*July 10- [HHS Marks One-Year Anniversary of Advancing American Kidney Health Initiative](#). On July 10, 2019, President Trump signed an Executive Order launching the Advancing American Kidney Health initiative, led by the Department of Health and Human Services. HHS Secretary Alex Azar issued the following statement.

*July 10- [HHS Releases May and June COVID-19 State Testing Plans](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) made May and June COVID-19 Testing Plans from all states, territories, and localities publicly available on HHS.gov. The State Testing Plans serve as a roadmap for each state's 2019 testing strategy for SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. The plans include details on response to surge cases and how to reach vulnerable populations including minorities, immunocompromised individuals and older adults.

*July 10- [HHS Announces Over \\$4 Billion in Additional Relief Payments to Healthcare Providers Impacted by the Coronavirus Pandemic](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), is announcing approximately \$3 billion in funding to hospitals serving a large percentage of vulnerable populations on thin margins and approximately \$1 billion to specialty rural hospitals, urban hospitals with certain rural Medicare designations, and hospitals in small metropolitan areas. HHS is also opening the provider portal to allow dentists to apply for relief. HHS recognizes the urgent need these vital funds play in supporting safety net providers and those serving large rural populations facing financial devastation catalyzed by the pandemic.

*July 10- [CMS Administrator Seema Verma Hosts Virtual Roundtable in Detroit](#). On Thursday, July 9, Seema Verma, Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and a member of the White House Coronavirus Task Force, convened a roundtable discussion with Detroit health care leaders, representatives from long-term care facilities, and other community stakeholders to discuss the impact of and response to coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in nursing homes.

*July 10- [CMS Directs Additional Resources to Nursing Homes in COVID-19 Hotspot Areas](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced the agency's targeted approach to provide additional resources to nursing homes in coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) hotspot areas. Specifically, CMS plans to deploy Quality Improvement Organizations (QIOs) across the country to provide immediate assistance to nursing homes in the hotspot areas as identified by the White House Coronavirus Task Force.

*July 13- [Health Privacy Rule 42 CFR Part 2 Is Revised, Modernizing Care Coordination for Americans Seeking Treatment for Substance Use Disorders](#). The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS or Department), announces the adoption of the revised Confidentiality of Substance Use Disorder Patient Records regulation, 42 CFR Part 2. The adoption of this revised rule represents a historic step in expanding care coordination and quality through the Deputy Secretary's Regulatory Sprint to Coordinated Care.

*July 14- [Trump Administration Announces Initiative for More and Faster COVID-19 Testing in Nursing Homes](#). Today, under the leadership of President Trump, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is announcing a large-scale procurement of U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) -authorized rapid point-of-care diagnostic test instruments and tests to be distributed to nursing homes in COVID-19 hotspot geographic areas with the United States. This initiative is a one-time procurement of devices and tests targeted to facilitate on-site testing among nursing home residents and staff.

*July 15- [Prepared Remarks from HHS Media Call with CDC Director Redfield and CIO Arrieta on COVID-19 Data Collection](#). On Wednesday, July 15, CDC Director Robert Redfield and HHS Chief Information Officer Jose Arrieta provided an update for members of the media on HHS efforts to gather and disseminate real-time hospital data on COVID-19. Below are their statements as prepared for delivery.

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 13- [How to file an appeal if your Medicare Advantage Plan doesn't cover an item or service](#). If you have a Medicare Advantage Plan, you know it covers a lot of items and services,

like prescription drugs, diabetic test supplies, cardiovascular screenings, and hospital visits. But, what should you do if your plan won't cost an item or service you need?

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