



CMS Snapshot

July 23-30, 2020

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, July 23 through 2pm Thursday, July 30 2020.

News Releases

*July 23- [CMS Releases Early 2020 Health Insurance Exchange Effectuated Enrollment Snapshot Showing Market Stability](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) today released the Early 2020 Effectuated Enrollment Report for the Federally-facilitated Health Insurance Exchange. The report confirmed that for the third year in a row, enrollment has remained steady and the number of consumers who paid for coverage in February 2020 increased compared to February 2019. Effectuated enrollment data is a measure of the number of consumers who selected a plan and have taken the additional steps necessary to keep their coverage in effect.

*July 24- [HHS Marks the 30th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act](#). Sunday, July 26, 2020, marks the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act. HHS Secretary Alex Azar released the following statement commemorating the occasion.

*July 24- [Trump Administration Announces Historic Action to Lower Drug Prices for Americans](#). Today, President Donald Trump took historic action to deliver lower prescription drug prices to American patients. The President signed four Executive Orders on drug pricing directing the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to take several steps to deliver for American patients lower costs on prescription drugs, including insulin and epinephrine, and ensure Americans are getting the lowest price possible for their drugs.

*July 24- [CMS Approves Pennsylvania's State Relief and Empowerment Waiver](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Department of the Treasury, announced the approval of Pennsylvania's request to implement a section 1332 State Relief and Empowerment waiver (also referred to as a section 1332 waiver). Through this waiver, Pennsylvania will run a state-based reinsurance program for plan years 2021 through 2025 to partially reimburse insurers for certain high-cost claims for consumers in the individual health insurance market.

*July 24- [CMS Administrator Seema Verma Hosts Roundtables in Cleveland](#). On Thursday, July 23, Seema Verma, Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and a member of the White House Coronavirus Task Force, convened two roundtable discussions with Ohio officials, Cleveland health care leaders, providers, educators, and other community stakeholders to discuss the impact of and response to COVID-19 on vulnerable populations in Ohio and the flexibilities that have been made available during the public health emergency.

*July 26- [HHS and DOD Invest \\$7.6M in Hologic to Expand Production of Custom Sample Collection and Processing Consumables for COVID-19 Tests](#). Today, as part of an ongoing collaboration between the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD), the two departments awarded an undefinitized contract action with a ceiling of \$7.6 million awarded to Hologic Inc. to expand production of custom sample collection and processing consumables for COVID-19 testing.

*July 27- [Lifespan Pays \\$1,040,000 to OCR to Settle Unencrypted Stolen Laptop Breach](#). Lifespan Health System Affiliated Covered Entity (Lifespan ACE), a non-profit health system based in Rhode Island, has agreed to pay \$1,040,000 to the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and to implement a corrective action plan to settle potential violations of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Privacy and Security Rules related to the theft of an unencrypted laptop.

*July 27- [HHS Reserves and Rapidly Expands Manufacturing Capacity for COVID-19 Vaccines at Texas Center for Innovation in Advanced Development and Manufacturing](#). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services today reserved the available advanced manufacturing capability and capacities of the Center for Innovation in Advanced Development and Manufacturing (CIADM) at the Texas A&M University System for use in manufacturing COVID-19 vaccines. The task order to the CIADM includes accelerating expansion of that manufacturing capacity for potential COVID-19 vaccines.

*July 28- [DOE, HHS, VA Announce COVID-19 Insights Partnership](#). Today, the Department of Energy (DOE), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced the formation of the COVID-19 Insights Partnership, an initiative to coordinate and share health data as well as research and expertise to aid in the fight against COVID-19.

*July 28- [HHS Issues New Report Highlighting Dramatic Trends in Medicare Beneficiary Telehealth Utilization amid COVID-19](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, through the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, is releasing a new report showing the dramatic utilization trends of telehealth services for primary care delivery in Fee-for-Service (FFS) Medicare in the early days of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.

*July 28- [CMS Updates Data on COVID-19 Impacts on Medicare Beneficiaries](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services today released its first monthly update of data that provides a

snapshot of the impact of COVID-19 on the Medicare population. For the first time, the snapshot includes data for American Indian/Alaskan Native Medicare beneficiaries. The new data indicate that American Indian/Alaskan Native beneficiaries have the second highest rate of hospitalization for COVID-19 among racial/ethnic groups after Blacks. Previously, the number of hospitalizations of American Indian/Alaskan Native beneficiaries was too low to be reported.

*July 28- [CMS Administrator Seema Verma Hosts COVID-19 Roundtables in Atlanta](#). On Monday, July 27, 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 on the impact of COVID-19 at the Sam Nunn Federal Center in Atlanta alongside U.S. Sen. Kelly Loeffler. Georgia health care leaders, providers, disease organizations, and advocacy groups met to discuss the impact COVID-19 has had on Georgia's most vulnerable populations.

*July 29- [HHS Secretary's Report Calls for Congressional Action to Combat Surprise Billing and Promote Price Transparency](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services released the HHS Secretary's Report on Addressing Surprise Billing. The report, called for in Section 7 of President Trump's Executive Order 13877, Improving Price and Quality Transparency in American Healthcare to Put Patients First, outlines critical steps, including Congressional action, to implement the Administration's principles on surprise billing. Sound surprise billing legislation will not only protect patients but will encourage a fairer, more transparent, patient-centered healthcare system that benefits all Americans.

*July 29- [Trump Administration Continues to Keep Out-of-Pocket Drug Costs Low for Seniors](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced the average basic premium for Medicare Part D prescription drug plans, which cover prescription drugs that beneficiaries pick up at a pharmacy. Under the leadership of President Trump, for the first time seniors that use insulin will be able to choose a prescription drug plan in their area that offers a broad set of insulins for no more than \$35 per month per prescription.

*July 30- [CMS Announces New Hospital Procedure Codes for Therapeutics in Response to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency](#). With the emergence of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and the new treatments that have followed, it is critical to be able to track the use of these treatments and their effectiveness in real-time. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) responded to this need, and in record time is implementing new procedure codes to allow Medicare and other insurers to identify the use of the therapeutics remdesivir and convalescent plasma for treating hospital in-patients with COVID-19.

*July 30- [CMS and CDC announce provider reimbursement available for counseling patients to self-isolate at time of COVID-19 testing](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are announcing that payment is available to physicians and health care providers to counsel patients, at the time of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) testing, about the importance of self-isolation after they are tested and prior to the onset of symptoms.

Fact Sheet

*July 24- [Trump Administration Accomplishments to Empower Americans with Disabilities](#). To mark the 30th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, HHS has compiled some of the achievements under President Trump to empower, support, and protect Americans with disabilities, made possible by work at HHS, by our partners in state and local government, and by advocates and Americans with disabilities.

Blog

*July 28- [Make sure you're protected from hepatitis](#). Hepatitis viruses cause more than 5,000 deaths each year in the U.S., and that number keeps growing. Fortunately, Medicare coverage can help keep you protected from Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C, the most common types of hepatitis in the United States.

*July 29- [The Impact of the Pandemic on Pregnancy: A Research Response](#). Maternal health and health disparities are key priorities for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Our commitment continues through ongoing research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to address life-threatening pregnancy complications. The statistics surrounding maternal mortality and morbidity are staggering: On average, every 12 hours, a woman dies from complications from pregnancy or giving birth, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and 60% of these deaths are preventable.

*July 29- [New baby means new health insurance options](#). Congratulations on your new addition! If you recently had a baby or adopted a child, you may be eligible for a Special Enrollment Period. This means you can enroll in or change your Marketplace plan even though it's not Open Enrollment. Your new coverage can start the day of the birth or adoption, even if you enroll in the plan up to 60 days afterward.

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