



CMS Snapshot

February 18-25, 2021

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, February 18 through 2pm Thursday, February 25, 2021.

News Releases

*February 18- [HHS Acting Secretary Norris Cochran Declares Public Health Emergency for State of Texas Due to Winter Storms](#). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Acting Secretary Norris Cochran declared a public health emergency for the state of Texas on Feb. 17, 2021, due to the recent winter storms. This declaration follows President Biden's emergency declaration for the state of Texas last week. The recent HHS action allows the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to give healthcare providers and suppliers greater flexibility in meeting emergency health needs in disasters.

*February 22- [CMS Offers Comprehensive Support to the State of Texas to Combat Winter Storm](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced today that efforts are underway to support Texas in response to severe winter storms that have affected the state over the past several days. On February 17, 2021, Health and Human Services Acting Secretary Norris Cochran declared a public health emergency (PHE) for Texas retroactive to February 11, 2021. CMS is working to ensure hospitals and other facilities can continue operations and provide access to care despite the effects of the storm.

*February 25- [OCR Resolves Three Discrimination Complaints After Medstar Health System Ensures Patients With Disabilities Can Have Support Persons in Health Care Settings During Covid-19 Pandemic](#). Today, the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at the U.S Department of Health and Human Services announces the resolution of three disability discrimination complaints to ensure that patients with disabilities are allowed access to support persons in MedStar Health hospitals and care locations during the COVID-19 pandemic. A support person may be a family member, personal care assistant, similar disability service provider, or other individual knowledgeable about the management or care of the patient who is authorized to assist the patient in making decisions.

Blogs

*February 22- [Medicare Part B enrollment: There's still time to sign up!](#) Most people get Medicare Part B (Medical Insurance) when they turn 65. If you didn't sign up for Part B then, now's the time to decide if you want to enroll.

*February 25- [What free services are included in my coverage?](#) Marketplace plans cover a set of [preventive services](#) — like shots and screening tests — at no cost to you.

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