



## CMS Snapshot

**November 10-18, 2021**

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

All releases below are from 2pm Wednesday, November 10 through 2pm Thursday, November 18, 2021.

### News Releases

\*November 12- [CMS Repeals MCIT/R&N Rule; Will Consider Other Coverage Pathways to Enhance Access to Innovative Medical Devices](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare and Medicare Services (CMS) is rescinding the Medicare Coverage of Innovative Technology and Definition of “Reasonable and Necessary” (MCIT/R&N) final rule because of concerns that the provisions in the final rule may not have been sufficient to protect Medicare patients. By rescinding this rule, CMS can take action that will better address those safety concerns in the future.

\*November 12- [CMS Announces 2022 Medicare Part B Premiums](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released the 2022 Medicare Parts A and B premiums, deductibles, and coinsurance amounts, and the 2022 Part D income-related monthly adjustment amounts. Most people with Medicare will see a 5.9 percent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) in their 2022 Social Security benefits—the largest COLA in 30 years. This significant COLA increase will more than cover the increase in the Medicare Part B monthly premium.

\*November 12- [Marketplace Weekly Enrollment Snapshot: Week One](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is reporting that in week one of the 2022 Open Enrollment Period, approximately 774,000 people selected individual market plans in the 33 states that utilize the HealthCare.gov platform. During Open Enrollment, CMS will release weekly enrollment snapshots that provide point-in-time estimates of weekly plan selections, Marketplace Call Center activity, and visits to HealthCare.gov and CuidadoDeSalud.gov for states that utilize the platform.

\*November 12- [Statement from Secretary Xavier Becerra on President Biden’s Intention to Nominate Dr. Robert Califf for Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration](#). Following President Biden's announcement that he intends to nominate Dr. Robert Califf for Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration, HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra issued this statement.

\*November 15- [Biden-Harris Administration Announces Medicare Fee-For-Service Estimated Improper Payments Decline by Over \\$20 Billion Since 2014](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced today that CMS' aggressive corrective actions led to an estimated \$20.72 billion reduction of Medicare Fee-for-Service (FFS) improper payments over seven years.

\*November 15- [Statement by HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra on Withdrawal of HHS Policy on Laboratory-Developed Tests](#). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Food and Drug Administration are committed to helping ensure that COVID-19 tests are accurate, reliable, and available. Today, as part of that commitment, HHS is withdrawing a policy established during the previous administration that limited FDA's ability to address certain problematic COVID-19 tests.

\*November 15- [Remarks by HHS Secretary Becerra at the National Association of Medicaid Directors \(NAMD\) 2021 Fall Conference](#). *As Prepared for Delivery*.

\*November 16- [CMS Administrator Brooks-LaSure & CMCS Director Tsai featured in Health Affairs](#). On Tuesday, November 16, *Health Affairs* published a blog—authored by Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Administrator Chiquita Brooks-LaSure and Center for Medicaid & CHIP Services (CMCS) Director Dan Tsai—outlining their strategic vision for Medicaid and CHIP.

\*November 16- [Readout of Secretary Becerra's Virtual Roundtable with Medical and Community Leaders on Encouraging Pediatric Vaccinations](#). Today, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra hosted a virtual roundtable on pediatric vaccinations with health care and community group leaders who are on the ground conducting trusted outreach to parents and families about the importance of getting children vaccinated against COVID-19. Secretary Becerra underscored the importance of working with trusted messengers and local health care providers as parents and children across the country continue to get vaccinated.

\*November 17- [Biden-Harris Administration Improves Transparency and Oversight of Prescription Drug and Medical Costs](#). The Biden-Harris Administration took additional steps to lower health care costs by requiring health insurance issuers, employer-based health plans, and other group health plans to report on prescription drug and health coverage costs.

\*November 17- [HHS Office for Civil Rights and U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Massachusetts Settle Disability Discrimination Case with Baystate Medical Center](#). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office for Civil Rights (OCR), in partnership with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Massachusetts (DOJ), entered into a Voluntary Resolution Agreement with Baystate Medical Center (Baystate), to ensure effective communication with individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing under Section 504 of the

Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504) and Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act of 2010 (Section 1557).

\*November 17- [Biden-Harris Administration Improves Transparency and Oversight of Prescription Drug and Medical Costs](#). The Biden-Harris Administration took additional steps to lower health care costs by requiring health insurance issuers, employer-based health plans, and other group health plans to report on prescription drug and health coverage costs.

\*November 18- [Marketplace Weekly Enrollment Snapshot: Week 2](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is reporting that in week two of the 2022 Open Enrollment Period, approximately 851,000 people selected individual market plans in the 33 states that utilize the HealthCare.gov platform. During the Open Enrollment Period, to date, more than 1,624,000 people have selected individual market plans on [HealthCare.gov](#).

\*November 18- [Biden Administration Secures 10 Million Courses of Pfizer's COVID-19 Oral Antiviral Medicine as Additional Tool to Reduce Hospitalizations and Save Lives](#). As part of its ongoing efforts to curb the pandemic, reduce hospitalizations, and save lives, the Biden Administration has secured 10 million treatment courses of Pfizer's promising COVID-19 oral antiviral drug, contingent on emergency use authorization (EUA) or approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

\*November 18- [Statement from Secretary Xavier Becerra on National Rural Health Day](#). In recognition of National Rural Health Day on November 18, 2021, Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra issued the following statement.

\*November 18- [HHS Extends Postpartum Coverage in Virginia for Nearly 6,000 People](#). The Biden-Harris Administration, through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) today approved extended Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) postpartum coverage in Virginia. This will provide access to essential care for an estimated 6,000 Virginians and provide peace of mind for people enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP, who will now be able to keep their coverage for 12 months, or regain coverage within that 12-month period, after childbirth. This important approval step will help Virginia expand access to needed pregnancy-related care, with the goal of preventing unnecessary postpartum-related illnesses and deaths.

## Blog

\*November 11- [See if you could save on a 2022 Marketplace health plan – most people do!](#) Open Enrollment for 2022 coverage ends January 15, 2022. Get an idea of what your costs may be by answering a few quick questions – you don't even have to log in. More people than ever qualify for savings, even those who weren't eligible before!

## Fact Sheets

\*November 12- [Marketplace Weekly Enrollment Snapshot: Week 1](#). Week 1, November 1- November 6, 2021. In week one of the 2022 Open Enrollment Period, approximately 774,000 people selected individual market plans through the 33 states that use the HealthCare.gov platform. As in past years, enrollment weeks are measured Sunday through Saturday.

\*November 12- [2022 Medicare Parts A & B Premiums and Deductibles/2022 Medicare Part D Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amounts](#). On November 12, 2021, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released the 2022 premiums, deductibles, and coinsurance amounts for the Medicare Part A and Part B programs, and the 2022 Medicare Part D income-related monthly adjustment amounts.

\*November 15- [Improper Payments Fact Sheet](#). What You Need to Know: Improper payments represent payments that do not meet program requirements.

\*November 17- [Prescription Drug and Health Care Spending Interim Final Rule with Request for Comments](#). On November 17, 2021, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), together with the Department of Labor (DOL) and the Department of the Treasury (collectively, the Departments), as well as the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), released an interim final rule with request for comments (IFC), entitled “Prescription Drug and Health Care Spending.”

\*November 18- [Marketplace Weekly Enrollment Snapshot: Week 2](#). Week 2, November 7- November 13, 2021. In week two of the 2022 Open Enrollment Period, approximately 851,000 people selected individual market plans through the 33 states that use the [HealthCare.gov](#) platform. During the Open Enrollment Period, to date, more than 1,624,000 people have selected individual market plans on [HealthCare.gov](#). As in past years, enrollment weeks are measured Sunday through Saturday.

*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](mailto:partnership@cms.hhs.gov)*