



CMS Snapshot

September 19-26, 2024

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, September 19 through 2pm Thursday, September 26, 2024.

News Releases

*September 19- [CMS Roundup \(September 20, 2024\)](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) provides an at-a-glance summary of news from around the agency.

*September 19- [In Historic Step, HRSA Makes First Ever Multi-Vendor Awards to Modernize the Nation's Organ Transplant System and End the Current Contract Monopoly](#). *As part of the Administration's efforts, for the first time in the program's nearly 40-year history, HRSA has awarded separate contracts to reform the organ procurement and transplant network. Multiple vendors will support improving quality and patient safety, modernizing IT, bolstering communications with patients, and more.* Today, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced the first ever multi-vendor contract awards to modernize the nation's organ transplant system to improve transparency, performance, governance, and efficiency of the organ donation and transplantation system for the more than 100,000 people on the organ transplant waitlist.

*September 20- [Biden-Harris Administration Advances Women's Health Through Affordable Care Act Grants in 14 States, D.C.](#). *Almost \$9 million in grant funding will help women in 14 states and D.C. access critical health benefits available through the ACA.* In its ongoing commitment to support women's health, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), today launched an innovative grant program to provide almost \$9 million to improve women's health coverage and access to critical health benefits. These funds may be used to develop activities and launch educational campaigns to address disparities in access to reproductive health care and maternal health outcomes – many of which often result from challenges women face when trying to access information about available benefits or coverage, including for contraception and other family planning services.

*September 24- [Biden-Harris Administration Announces \\$75 Million Investment in Rural Health Care](#). *New funding will launch rural substance use disorder treatment services, expand access to maternal health care in the South, help rural hospitals stay open.* Today, the Health Resources

and Services Administration (HRSA), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), announced nearly \$75 million to support health care services in rural America. Funding will launch new opioid treatment and recovery services in rural communities, strengthen maternal health care in the South, and help rural hospitals stay open. HRSA Administrator Carole Johnson attended an event yesterday in Wilson, North Carolina, where she discussed the impact of this investment in rural health care.

*September 24- [HHS Announces Mpox Vaccine Donations, Boosting Domestic and International Supply](#). *These actions increase domestic and international preparedness and include the largest international donation of JYNNEOS to date.* Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR), announced actions to increase the supply of mpox vaccine, supporting the U.S. Government commitment to make over a million combined doses of mpox vaccines available to the global mpox response. This is the largest international donation of the JYNNEOS mpox vaccine to date, which just received regulatory approval from WHO last week.

*September 25- [Wireless Calls to 988 Get a More Localized Response with Georouting](#). *The process to route cell phone calls to the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline based on the caller's approximate location, versus by area code, has started; FCC to vote next month on a final rule that would require all U.S. wireless carriers to implement georouting with specific timelines. Note to editors and reporters: [B-roll of 988 crisis centers](#) across the country is available for media use, courtesy of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). A [988 Partner Toolkit](#) is also available for media use and sharing.* Today, the [988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline](#) announced that the process to start routing cellular phone calls to 988 contact centers based on the caller's approximate location, versus by area code — known as “georouting” — began last week with two major U.S. wireless carriers that combined make up about half of all wireless calls to 988. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and the 988 Network Administrator, Vibrant Emotional Health, have been working with all of the major U.S. cell phone carriers for more than a year to improve call routing to 988 so that callers on a cell phone can be connected more locally to centers that are better equipped to provide nearby resources and services.

*September 25- [Readout: HHS Hosts Inaugural Sickle Cell Disease \(SCD\) Summit](#). On Tuesday, September 24, 2024, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) proudly hosted its first-ever Sickle Cell Disease Summit in recognition of National Sickle Cell Awareness Month, marking a significant milestone in ongoing efforts to raise awareness and enhance care for individuals affected by Sickle Cell Disease (SCD).

*September 26- [Biden-Harris Administration Releases Historic Guidance on Health Coverage Requirements for Children and Youth Enrolled in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program](#). In another demonstration of the Biden-Harris Administration's unwavering commitment to children's health, today the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)

released [comprehensive guidance](#) to support states in ensuring the 38 million children with Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) coverage – nearly half of the children in this country – receive the full range of health care services they need.

*September 26- [HHS Office for Civil Rights Settles Ransomware Cybersecurity Investigation under HIPAA Security Rule for \\$250,000](#). *The Settlement marks OCR's fourth ransomware settlement as the agency sees 264% increase in large ransomware breaches since 2018.* Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office for Civil Rights (OCR) announced a settlement with Cascade Eye and Skin Centers, P.C., a privately-owned health care provider in the state of Washington, concerning potential violations of the [Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 \(HIPAA\) Security Rule](#), following a ransomware attack investigation by OCR. Ransomware and hacking are the primary cyber-threats in health care. Since 2018, there has been a 264% increase in large breaches reported to OCR involving ransomware attacks.

*September 26- [HHS Announces Phase 2 Winners in Environmental Justice Community Innovator Challenge](#). *Challenge aims to uplift community-level solutions to address health inequities and environmental justice.* The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has awarded prizes to 10 winners in the second and final phase of the [Environmental Justice Community Innovator Challenge](#) (Challenge) that awarded \$1 million in prizes over two phases. HHS created this national prize competition to uplift community voices with innovative solutions addressing the adverse health impacts of environmental conditions within local, disproportionately impacted communities.

*September 26- [Biden-Harris Administration Awards More than \\$1.5 Billion in State and Tribal Opioid Response Grants to Advance the President's Unity Agenda for the Nation](#). *SAMHSA Extends Grant Cycles to Give Communities More Time to Implement Programs that Connect Americans to Evidence-Based Treatments, Recovery Supports.* Today, the Biden-Harris Administration, through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), announced more than \$1.5 billion in awards for fiscal year 2024 State Opioid Response (SOR), Tribal Opioid Response (TOR) and SOR/TOR Technical Assistance grants. This grant funding is a critical investment in [President Biden's Unity Agenda for the Nation](#) and the [HHS Overdose Prevention Strategy](#), and supports evidence-based, holistic practices that address the overdose crisis through prevention; harm reduction, including naloxone and other opioid overdose reversal medications; treatment, including use of medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD); and recovery supports.

*September 26- [HHS invests in project to accelerate the discovery and development of new antibiotics using generative AI](#). *Project aims to identify several novel antibiotic candidates to address the threat of antibiotic resistance.* Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) through the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health ([ARPA-H](#)) announced funding for the Transforming Antibiotic R&D with Generative AI to stop Emerging Threats (TARGET) project, which will use AI to speed the discovery and development of new classes of

antibiotics. This program is another action to support the United States' longstanding commitment to combating antimicrobial resistance (AMR), from groundbreaking innovation to international collaboration. The U.S. is a global leader in the fight against AMR and has a demonstrated track record of progress in protecting people, animals, and the environment from the threat of AMR domestically and globally.

Fact Sheets

*September 20- [Misclassification of Drugs, Program Administration and Program Integrity Updates Under the Medicaid Drug Rebate Program Final Rule](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS') final rule advances policies to promote the efficient operation of the Medicaid Drug Rebate Program (MDRP). This includes policies to implement new statutory authorities included in the Medicaid Services Investment and Accountability Act of 2019 (MSIAA) to address situations in which manufacturers incorrectly report or misclassify their drugs in the MDRP. The final rule also enhances MDRP integrity and strengthens policies that will ensure greater consistency and accuracy of drug information reporting, timely data collection, and efficient operation of the MDRP.

*September 24- [Final Rule on Mitigating the Impact of Significant, Anomalous, and Highly Suspect Billing Activity on Medicare Shared Savings Program Financial Calculations in Calendar Year 2023 \(CMS-1799-F\)](#). On September 24, 2024, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued the final rule entitled, "Medicare Program: Mitigating the Impact of Significant, Anomalous, and Highly Suspect Billing Activity on Medicare Shared Savings Program Financial Calculations in Calendar Year 2023" (CMS-1799-F). This final rule is part of a larger strategy to address significant, anomalous, and highly suspect (SAHS) billing activity within Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) reconciliation. A proposal in the calendar year (CY) 2025 Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) proposed rule addresses SAHS billing activity for CY 2024 onwards. This fact sheet summarizes the Medicare Shared Savings Program (Shared Savings Program) policies that are included in this final rule.

Blog

*September 26- [Prepare now for 2025 Open Enrollment](#). Open Enrollment for 2025 Marketplace health insurance starts on November 1! Take a few minutes today to get ready to streamline the enrollment process for a smoother experience.