



CMS Snapshot

December 3-10, 2020

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, December 3 through 2pm Thursday, December 10, 2020.

News Releases

*December 4- [Statement from Brian Harrison on HHS Chief of Staff's Taxpayer Accountability Board](#). Today, HHS announced that the Department has established the Chief of Staff's Taxpayer Accountability Board (TAB) to ensure that HHS is a good steward of taxpayer funds and to eliminate excessive spending. The TAB will institutionalize a contract review culture for critical services throughout HHS by implementing a review process to strengthen the management of the acquisition of services at both the strategic and tactical level.

*December 4- [HHS Announces False Claims Act Working Group to Enhance Efforts to Combat Fraud and Focus Resources on Bad Actors](#). Today, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced the creation of a False Claims Act Working Group (Working Group) that enhances its partnership with the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the HHS Office of Inspector General (OIG) to combat fraud and abuse by identifying and focusing resources on those who seek to defraud the American taxpayers. HHS regulates over a third of the United States economy.

*December 7- [Trump Administration Announces New Half Billion Incentive Payment Distribution to Nursing Homes](#). Today, the Trump Administration, through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) operating under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), is announcing it will distribute \$523 million in second round performance payments to over 9,000 nursing homes. These nursing homes are being rewarded for successfully reducing COVID-19 related infections and deaths between September and October.

*December 7- [HHS Publishes COVID-19 Hospital Facility-Level Data](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is releasing new hospital COVID-19 capacity data at the facility level. Previously released data about hospital capacity that had been released was aggregated at the state level. This new, more granular, data release aggregates daily hospital reports into a "week at a time" picture to protect patient privacy, while providing a view of how COVID-19 is impacting hospitals and local communities across the country.

*December 10- [HHS Proposes Modifications to the HIPAA Privacy Rule to Empower Patients, Improve Coordinated Care, and Reduce Regulatory Burdens](#). Today, the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announces proposed changes to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Privacy Rule to support individuals' engagement in their care, remove barriers to coordinated care, and reduce regulatory burdens on the health care industry.

Fact Sheets

* December 9- [Federal Health Insurance Exchange Weekly Enrollment Snapshot: Week Five](#). In Week Five of the 2021 Open Enrollment period, 915,118 people selected plans using the HealthCare.gov platform. As in past years, enrollment weeks are measured Sunday through Saturday.

Blogs

*December 8- [Don't miss your flu shot](#). December 6–12 is [National Influenza Vaccination Week](#). It's a good reminder to roll up your sleeve and get your yearly [Medicare-covered flu shot](#). Each year, thousands of people are hospitalized from flu-related illness. When more people get the flu shot, more people are protected.

*December 10- [Act now: The 2021 enrollment deadline is just days away](#). This is the last call for 2021 Marketplace insurance that meets your needs and budget! Open Enrollment for 2021 Marketplace health plans ends **Tuesday, December 15**. There are just 5 days left to enroll in, re-enroll in, or change 2021 Marketplace coverage that starts January 1.

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