



CMS Snapshot

December 17-23, 2020

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, December 17 through 2pm Thursday, December 23, 2020.

News Releases

*December 17- [CMS Announces New Model Opportunity for Medicaid Managed Care Organizations Serving Beneficiaries Dually Eligible for Medicare and Medicaid](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation is announcing a new opportunity to enable Medicaid Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) to better serve enrollees who are dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid. This new Model opportunity is the first CMS initiative designed to harness the power of Medicaid MCOs to coordinate Medicare and Medicaid services and improve health outcomes for the population of dually eligible beneficiaries who are in both Medicaid managed care and Medicare fee-for-service (FFS).

*December 18- [OCR Issues Guidance on HIPAA, Health Information Exchanges, and Disclosures of Protected Health Information for Public Health Purposes](#). Today, the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued guidance on how the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) permits covered entities and their business associates to use health information exchanges (HIEs) to disclose protected health information (PHI) for the public health activities of a public health authority (PHA).

*December 18- [HHS and DoD Statements on FDA Authorization of Moderna Vaccine](#). On Friday, the Food and Drug Administration announced that it had issued an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine, the second COVID-19 vaccine to receive an EUA. Operation Warp Speed has allocated more than 5.9 million doses of the vaccine for jurisdictions to receive in the coming week. Below are statements from HHS Secretary Alex Azar and Acting Defense Secretary Christopher Miller.

*December 18- [Guidance for National Guard Personnel Regarding COVID-19 Vaccines and Immunity under the PREP Act](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services through the Assistant Secretary for Health, extended coverage under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act (PREP Act) to qualified National Guardsmen administering COVID-19 vaccinations that have been authorized or licensed by the Food and Drug Administration

(FDA). This will allow states and/or territories that wish to fully utilize National Guard health and medical personnel to increase access to COVID-19 vaccinations the flexibility to do so.

*December 18- [Trump Administration Marks End of Fourth Successful Open Enrollment Period](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released the weekly enrollment snapshot that shows over 8.2 million people selected plans by end of the final day of the 2021 Open Enrollment Period on December 15, 2020. This total preliminary enrollment figure is nearly as high as 2020's 8.3 million enrollments, despite the fact that New Jersey and Pennsylvania transitioned to State-based Exchange platforms for the 2021 Open Enrollment Period and as a result, selections in these states are no longer included in this snapshot.

*December 21- [Statement: U.S. Surgeon General Calls for COVID-19 Survivors to Donate Plasma](#). Surgeon General VADM Jerome Adams is calling on Americans who have recovered from COVID-19 to consider donating COVID-19 Convalescent Plasma (CCP). A CCP donation may benefit people who are newly diagnosed with COVID-19, and gives frontline health care workers an important tool in treating patients. More than 250,000 courses of CCP have been administered to Americans to help prevent severe consequences from COVID-19, yet, health care professionals urgently need a steady, reliable supply of plasma.

*December 21- [CMS Issues Final Rule to Empower States, Manufacturers, and Private Payers to Create New Payment Methods for Innovative New Therapies Based on Patient Outcomes](#). As part of President Trump's longstanding commitment to lowering drug prices, today the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) finalized regulatory changes to modernize Medicaid prescription drug purchasing and propel payment innovation by providing states, private payers and manufacturers more flexibility to enter into value-based purchasing (VBP) arrangements for prescription drugs.

*December 21- [CMS Proposes Updates to Coverage Policy for Autologous Blood-Derived Products for Chronic Non-Healing Wounds](#). Today the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) proposed to update the coverage policy for Autologous Blood-Derived Products for Chronic Non-Healing Wounds. Specifically, CMS is proposing to update coverage of platelet rich plasma (PRP) for the treatment of chronic non-healing diabetic, venous, and pressure wounds. PRP is a blood-derived product prepared from the patient's own blood to be used as a wound covering in the management of chronic wounds.

*December 21- [CMS Releases August Medicaid and CHIP Enrollment Trends Snapshot Showing Continued Enrollment Growth](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released its monthly Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Enrollment Trends Snapshot today, showing a continued increase in enrollment for these programs. This latest summary report captures impacts of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) Public Health Emergency (PHE) by tracking total Medicaid and CHIP program enrollment trends for adults and children over a 12-month period. CMS initially [reported](#) the impact of COVID-19 on increasing

Medicaid and CHIP enrollment in the Enrollment Trends Snapshot released in September 2020.

*December 22- [OCR Settles Thirteenth Investigation in HIPAA Right of Access Initiative](#). The Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announces its thirteenth settlement of an enforcement action in its HIPAA Right of Access Initiative. OCR announced this initiative as an enforcement priority in 2019 to support individuals' right to timely access their health records at a reasonable cost under the HIPAA Privacy Rule.

*December 22- [CMS Launches Next Phase of the Medicaid and CHIP Maternal and Infant Health Initiative](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Service (CMS) is launching the next phase of the Maternal and Infant Health Initiative (MIHI) today to support state Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) agencies in their efforts to improve maternal and infant health outcomes. The launch includes the announcement of instructional webinars and tools designed to support states as they address the MIHI's new three focus areas: postpartum care visits, well-child visits, and decreasing rates of cesarean section births in low-risk pregnancies.

*December 22- [CMS Announces Approval of Oklahoma & Maine's Substance Use Disorder Demonstrations, the 30th and 31st to Expand Access to Combat the Opioid Crisis](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced today, the approval of both the Oklahoma and Maine section 1115 demonstrations to expand treatment for substance abuse disorder. CMS approved Oklahoma's new demonstration, titled "Institutions for Mental Diseases Waiver for Serious Mental Illness/Substance Use Disorder," and Maine's new demonstration, entitled "Maine Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Care Initiative."

*December 22- [New Measures Under Consideration Mark a Milestone for CMS's Reimagined Quality Strategy to Increase Digital Innovation and Reduce Burden](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) today unveiled its 2020 list of quality and efficiency measures under consideration. Quality measures are tools the agency uses to collect data from providers on the effectiveness, safety, efficiency, and timeliness of care beneficiaries receive. Every year, CMS evaluates all measures in its programs, proposing to remove those that have become less relevant and proposing new measures that may be more meaningful based on review by external health care experts.

*December 23- [Trump Administration purchases additional 100 million doses of COVID-19 investigational vaccine from Pfizer](#). The Trump Administration, through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Department of Defense (DOD), will purchase an additional 100 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine from Pfizer.

*December 23- [HHS, DOD collaborate with Merck to continue the development and large-scale manufacturing of investigational COVID-19 treatment](#). The U.S. Department of the Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Department of Defense (DOD) jointly announced an agreement with Merck to support advanced development and large-scale manufacturing of the their

investigational therapeutic MK-7110 to treat hospitalized patients with severe or critical COVID-19.

Fact Sheets

*December 17- [Direct Contracting Model: Professional and Global Options Medicaid Managed Care Organization \(MCO\)-based Direct Contracting Entity \(DCE\) Fact Sheet](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (Innovation Center) developed the Direct Contracting Model Professional and Global Options to test financial risk-sharing arrangements to reduce Medicare expenditures while preserving or enhancing the quality of care furnished to beneficiaries. Direct Contracting offers a variety of pathways for health care providers and suppliers to take on financial risk while being supported by enhanced flexibilities.

*December 18- [Federal Health Insurance Exchange Weekly Enrollment Snapshot: Week Six](#). In Week Six of the 2021 Open Enrollment period, 4,416,057 people selected plans using the HealthCare.gov platform or were automatically re-enrolled in a plan. While past snapshots this year have measured enrollment weeks Sunday through Saturday, this week's snapshot for week six also includes the final few days of the Open Enrollment Period.

*December 21- [Establishing Minimum Standards in Medicaid State Drug Utilization Review \(DUR\) and Supporting Value-Based Purchasing \(VBP\) for Drugs Covered in Medicaid, Revising Medicaid Drug Rebate and Third Party Liability \(TPL\) Requirements \(CMS 2482-F\) Final Reg.](#) Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) published the final rule Establishing Minimum Standards in Medicaid State Drug Utilization Review (DUR) and Supporting Value-Based Purchasing (VBP) for Drugs Covered in Medicaid, Revising Medicaid Drug Rebate and Third Party Liability (TPL) Requirements (CMS 2482-F).

Blogs

*December 23- [Activate your 2021 health plan by paying your premium](#). To activate your 2021 health insurance plan, pay your first premium directly to the insurance company (not the Marketplace). Your coverage won't start until you make payment, so follow their instructions carefully. You may be able to pay online at HealthCare.gov.

*December 23- [Make your next Medicare premium payment online](#). Spend less time paying your bills—pay your Medicare Part B premium online. If you get this [bill from Medicare](#) for your premiums, you may be able to pay it online with a credit or debit card.

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