



## CMS Snapshot

**July 8-15, 2021**

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, July 8 through 2pm Thursday, July 15, 2021.

### News Releases

\*July 8- [Joint CDC and FDA Statement on Vaccine Boosters](#). The United States is fortunate to have highly effective vaccines that are widely available for those aged 12 and up. People who are fully vaccinated are protected from severe disease and death, including from the variants currently circulating in the country such as Delta. People who are not vaccinated remain at risk. Virtually all COVID-19 hospitalizations and deaths are among those who are unvaccinated. We encourage Americans who have not yet been vaccinated to get vaccinated as soon as possible to protect themselves and their community.

\*July 9- [HHS Updates Interoperability Standards to Support the Electronic Exchange of Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Social Determinants of Health](#). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) today released the [United States Core Data for Interoperability](#) version 2 (USCDI v2), a standardized set of health data classes and constituent data elements for nationwide, interoperable health information exchange.

\*July 9- [Statement by HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra on the Swearing-In of Dawn O'Connell as Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response and Cheryl Campbell becoming Assistant Secretary for Administration](#). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra swore in Dawn O'Connell as the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response. O'Connell had previously served as a counselor to the Secretary, helping drive the Department's COVID-19 response.

\*July 12- [CMS Opens National Coverage Determination Analysis on Treatment for Alzheimer's Disease](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is opening a National Coverage Determination (NCD) analysis, a process that will allow the agency to carefully review and determine whether Medicare will establish a national Medicare coverage policy for monoclonal antibodies targeting amyloid for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease. NCDs

are program instructions developed by CMS to describe the nationwide conditions for Medicare coverage for a specific item or service.

\*July 13- [CMS Addresses Substance Use, Mental Health Crisis Care for Those with Medicaid](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced a funding opportunity made possible by the American Rescue Plan (ARP) to help states strengthen system capacity to provide community-based mobile crisis intervention services for those with Medicaid. The \$15 million funding opportunity is available to state Medicaid agencies for planning grants to support developing these programs.

\*July 13- [CMS Proposes Physician Payment Rule to Improve Health Equity, Patient Access](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is proposing changes to address the widening gap in health equity highlighted by the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) and to expand patient access to comprehensive care, especially in underserved populations. In CMS's annual Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) proposed rule, the agency is recommending steps that continue the Biden-Harris Administration's commitment to strengthen and build upon Medicare by promoting health equity; expanding access to services furnished via telehealth and other telecommunications technologies for behavioral health care; enhancing diabetes prevention programs; and further improving CMS's quality programs to ensure quality care for Medicare beneficiaries and to create equal opportunities for physicians in both small and large clinical practices.

\*July 13- [HHS Provides \\$398 Million to Small Rural Hospitals for COVID-19 Testing and Mitigation](#). Today, thanks to the American Rescue Plan, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) provided \$398 million in funding through the Small Rural Hospital Improvement Program (SHIP) to 1,540 small rural hospitals for COVID-19 testing and mitigation.

\*July 14- [Health Care Sign Ups Surpass 2 Million During 2021 Special Enrollment Period Ahead of Aug. 15 Deadline](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released new enrollment reports showing more than two million people have signed up for health coverage during the Biden-Harris Administration's 2021 Special Enrollment Period (SEP), which opened on February 15, 2021 as the country grappled with the pandemic, and will conclude on the extended deadline August 15, 2021. In addition, today's reports show access to health care continues to expand with 81 million people receiving coverage through Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) as of February 2021.

\*July 15- [Biden-Harris Administration Launches "Summer Sprint to Coverage" Campaign for Final 30 Days of Special Enrollment Period](#). Today, on the heels of health coverage sign ups [surpassing two million](#), the Biden-Harris Administration is launching the "Summer Sprint to Coverage" campaign as part of robust efforts to get more Americans to sign up for health coverage in the final 30 days of the Special Enrollment Period (SEP) on HealthCare.gov. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will spearhead the "Summer Sprint to

Coverage” campaign, mobilizing an all-hands effort including integrated paid media placements, increased community outreach, and more to encourage Americans who need coverage to sign up at HealthCare.gov by August 15 for zero-cost or low-cost, quality health insurance.

\*July 15- [U.S. Surgeon General Issues Advisory During COVID-19 Vaccination Push Warning American Public About Threat of Health Misinformation](#). U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy is issuing the first Surgeon General's Advisory of this Administration to warn the American public about the urgent threat of health misinformation. Health misinformation, including disinformation, have threatened the U.S. response to COVID-19 and continue to prevent Americans from getting vaccinated, prolonging the pandemic and putting lives at risk, and the advisory encourages technology and social media companies to take more responsibility to stop online spread of health misinformation.

\*July 15- [Biden-Harris Administration Provides Nearly \\$144 Million in American Rescue Plan Funds to Support COVID-19 Response Efforts in Underserved Communities](#). As part of the Biden-Harris Administration’s ongoing efforts to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), awarded nearly \$144 million in American Rescue Plan funding to 102 HRSA Health Center Program look-alikes (LALs) to respond to and mitigate the spread of COVID-19, and enhance health care services and infrastructure in communities across the country. LALs are community-based health care providers that provide essential primary health care services to underserved communities and vulnerable populations but do not otherwise receive HRSA Health Center Program funding.

## Fact Sheets

\* July 14- [2021 Marketplace Special Enrollment Period Report](#). 2021 Marketplace Special Enrollment Period Report. February 15 – June 30, 2021.

## Blog

\* July 15- [Don’t let health or transportation issues keep you from getting your COVID-19 vaccine](#). If you have Medicare and face challenges getting to a COVID-19 vaccine location, Medicare will pay a doctor or other care provider to give the vaccine to you in your home, at no cost to you. [Getting a COVID-19 vaccine](#) is more important than ever. Do you know about the [Delta variant](#) of COVID-19 now spreading in the U.S.? It can spread easier and may be more severe than the original coronavirus. The COVID-19 vaccines are highly effective against this variant, so once you’re vaccinated you’re well protected.

\*July 15- [Understand your Medicare coverage choices](#). You have options when it comes to how you get your Medicare coverage. The 2 main ways are Original Medicare or Medicare Advantage. When choosing which coverage is right for you, consider.

\*July 15- [Report income & household changes to the Marketplace as they happen](#). If you're enrolled in a Marketplace plan and your income or household changes, update your application as soon as possible. These changes may affect the coverage or savings you're eligible for. If you don't report them, you could qualify for more savings than you're getting now or wind up having to pay money back when you file 2021 taxes next year.

*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)*