



CMS Snapshot

April 27-May 4, 2023

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All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, April 27 through 2pm Thursday, May 4, 2023

News Releases

*April 27- [The Biden-Harris Administration Proposes New Standards to Help Ensure Access to Quality Health Care in Medicaid and CHIP](#). *Newly proposed standards and requirements would better ensure access to care, accountability, and transparency for Medicaid or CHIP services, including home and community-based services.* The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) today unveiled two notices of proposed rulemaking (NPRMs), *Ensuring Access to Medicaid Services (Access NPRM)* and *Managed Care Access, Finance, and Quality (Managed Care NPRM)*, that together would further strengthen access to and quality of care across Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), the nation’s largest health coverage programs. These rules build on Medicaid’s already strong foundation as an essential program for millions of families and individuals, especially children, pregnant people, older adults, and people with disabilities.

*May 1- [Statements by Assistant Secretary for Health Admiral Rachel Levine and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Population Affairs Jessica Marcella on National Adolescent Health Month](#). To mark the start of May and National Adolescent Health Month, Assistant Secretary for Health Admiral Rachel Levine and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Population Affairs and Director of the Office of Adolescent Health Jessica Marcella released the following statements.

*May 1- [HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra Statement on EMTALA Enforcement](#). *Secretary Becerra sends letter to hospital and provider associations across the country reinforcing EMTALA obligations under federal law. Secretary Becerra to hospitals: “You are obligated to offer necessary stabilizing care to your patients, and we will not hesitate to enforce your obligations under the law”.* Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced two investigations of hospitals that did not offer necessary stabilizing care to an individual experiencing an emergency medical condition, in violation of the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra released the following statement.

For more information, please email partnership@cms.hhs.gov

*May 2- [HHS Awards an Additional \\$8.2M to Expand Pilot Diaper Distribution Program](#). *Total Investment of \$16.2M supports first-ever federally funded diaper distribution program for low-income families.* The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Administration of Children and Families (ACF), announced an additional \$8.2 million to support the first-ever federally funded diaper distribution program for low-income families. Initially launched in September 2022, the Diaper Distribution Demonstration and Research Pilot (Diaper Distribution Pilot) will add an additional six states and one tribe to the original grant recipients to address widespread diaper need. This new allocation brings the total funding for the pilot to \$16.2 million, which will support projects in a total of twelve states and two tribes.

*May 2- [HHS Awards Phase 1 Winners of Competition to Reduce Risk of Exposure to Endocrine-Disrupting Chemicals for Black Women](#). *The competition was developed to identify gaps in knowledge and innovative solutions to improving women's health by reducing EDC exposure risk.* The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health (OASH) Office on Women's Health (OWH), is awarding the 15 winners for Phase 1 of the [HHS Endocrine-Disrupting Chemicals \(EDC\) Innovator Award Competition](#). This competition was developed to identify gaps in knowledge and innovative solutions to improving women's health by reducing EDC exposure risk.

*May 3- [New Surgeon General Advisory Raises Alarm about the Devastating Impact of the Epidemic of Loneliness and Isolation in the United States](#). *Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy Calls for Action to Address Public Health Crisis, Lays Out Framework for a National Strategy to Advance Social Connection.* Today, United States Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy released a new Surgeon General Advisory calling attention to the public health crisis of loneliness, isolation, and lack of connection in our country. Even before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, approximately half of U.S. adults reported experiencing measurable levels of loneliness. Disconnection fundamentally affects our mental, physical, and societal health.

*May 4- [Departments of Justice and Health and Human Services Announce Interim Resolution Agreement in Environmental Justice Investigation of Alabama Department of Public Health](#). WASHINGTON – The Departments of Justice and Health and Human Services (HHS) announced today an interim resolution agreement in their environmental justice investigation into the Alabama Department of Public Health and the Lowndes County Health Department (collectively ADPH) in Lowndes County, Alabama. ADPH cooperated throughout the investigation and agreed to the [interim resolution agreement - PDF](#) that puts ADPH on a path forward towards ensuring the development of equitable and safe wastewater disposal and management systems in Lowndes County.

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Fact Sheets

*April 27- [Summary of CMS’s Access-Related Notices of Proposed Rulemaking: Ensuring Access to Medicaid Services \(CMS 2442-P\) and Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program \(CHIP\) Managed Care Access, Finance, and Quality \(CMS-2439-P\)](#). *Summary of CMS’s Access-Related Notices of Proposed Rulemaking*. Ensuring beneficiaries can access covered services is a critical function of the Medicaid and CHIP programs and a top priority of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). Together these two proposed rules, *Ensuring Access to Medicaid Services (Access NPRM)* and *Managed Care Access, Finance, and Quality (Managed Care NPRM)*, propose historic advancements in access to care, quality of care, and improved health outcomes for Medicaid beneficiaries across fee-for-service (FFS) and managed care delivery systems, including home and community-based services (HCBS) provided through those delivery systems, and for CHIP beneficiaries.

*April 27- [Summary of Medicaid and CHIP Payment-Related Provisions: Ensuring Access to Medicaid Services \(CMS 2442-P\) and Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program \(CHIP\) Managed Care Access, Finance, and Quality \(CMS-2439-P\)](#). *Summary of Medicaid and CHIP Payment-Related Provisions*. Ensuring beneficiaries can access covered services is a critical function of the Medicaid and CHIP programs and a top priority of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). The two proposed rules *Ensuring Access to Medicaid Services (Access NPRM)* and *Managed Care Access, Finance, and Quality (Managed Care NPRM)*, outlined in this fact sheet, include both proposed changes to current requirements and newly proposed requirements that would advance CMS’s efforts to improve access to care, quality, and health outcomes, and better promote health equity for Medicaid beneficiaries across fee-for-service (FFS) and managed care delivery systems, including for home and community-based services (HCBS) provided through those delivery systems, and for CHIP beneficiaries. Medicaid and CHIP are the nation’s largest health coverage programs.

*April 27- [Ensuring Access to Medicaid Services \(CMS 2442-P\) Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. Summary of the Medical Care Advisory Committee and Beneficiary Advisory Group Provisions](#). Ensuring beneficiaries can access covered services is a critical function of the Medicaid program and a top priority of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). The proposed rule, *Ensuring Access to Medicaid Services*, outlined in this fact sheet includes both proposed changes to current requirements and newly proposed requirements that would advance the CMS’s efforts to improve access to care, quality, and health outcomes, and better promote health equity for Medicaid beneficiaries across fee-for-service (FFS) and managed care delivery systems, including for home and community-based services (HCBS) provided through those delivery systems.

*April 27- [Notice of Proposed Rulemaking: Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program \(CHIP\) Managed Care Access, Finance, and Quality \(CMS-2439-P\)](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) today unveiled a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM), *Managed*

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Care Access, Finance, and Quality (Managed Care NPRM). This proposed rule aims to help states build stronger programs to better meet the needs of the Medicaid and CHIP populations by improving access to and quality of care provided to Medicaid and CHIP managed care enrollees. Medicaid and CHIP are the nation's largest health coverage programs. If adopted as proposed, this rule would build on Medicaid's already strong foundation as an essential program for millions of families and individuals, especially children, pregnant people, older adults, and people with disabilities.

*April 27- [Ensuring Access to Medicaid Services \(CMS 2442-P\) Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. Summary of Key Home and Community-Based Services \(HCBS\) Provisions](#). Ensuring beneficiaries can access covered services is a critical function of the Medicaid program and a top priority of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). The proposed rule, *Ensuring Access to Medicaid Services*, outlined in this fact sheet, includes both proposed changes to current requirements and newly proposed requirements that would advance CMS's efforts to improve access to care, quality, and health outcomes, and better promote health equity for Medicaid beneficiaries across fee-for-service (FFS) and managed care delivery systems, including for home and community-based services (HCBS) provided through those delivery systems.

*May 3- [Fact Sheet: Celebrating Mental Health Awareness Month 2023](#). Our country is facing an unprecedented mental health crisis. The crisis isn't just affecting adults, its devastating young people, and people from every background are impacted. President Biden is committed to addressing the nation's mental health crisis. The Administration has made important progress on expanding access to mental health services, and invested billions of dollars through American Rescue Plan and the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, to clearly send the message: Support is Here.

Blogs

*April 28- [The Transplant Eco-System: The Role of Data in CMS Oversight of The Organ Procurement Organizations](#). *Lee A. Fleisher, M.D., Jean D. Moody-Williams, RN, MPP, Jonathan Blum, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services*. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) are federal agencies within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) that play important roles in protecting the health and safety of Americans as they engage with the U.S. healthcare system. The agencies share responsibility for overseeing the organ donation, procurement, and transplantation system. This is accomplished through CMS' oversight of the Organ Procurement Organizations (OPOs) and transplant programs, along with HRSA's oversight of the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN). As of December 2022, over 100,000 people were awaiting solid organ transplantation, and although there were 42,888 transplants performed in the U.S. in 2022, many available organs went unused¹¹.

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*May 3- [HHS Shines Spotlight on Diagnostic Innovation During Lyme Disease Awareness Month.](#)

By: [Daniel Desautels](#), ORISE Fellow, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and [Kristen Honey PhD, PMP](#), Chief Data Scientist, Executive Director of InnovationX, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health (OASH), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Summary: Through the LymeX Diagnostics Prize, HHS and the Steven & Alexandra Cohen Foundation are accelerating the development of Lyme disease diagnostics. As we mark Lyme Disease Awareness Month this May, HHS is proud to celebrate the [10 teams participating in Phase 2 of the LymeX Diagnostics Prize](#). The ultimate goal of HHS and the Steven & Alexandra Cohen Foundation's [LymeX Innovation Accelerator](#) (LymeX) competition is to nurture the development of diagnostics toward Food and Drug Administration review.

*May 4- [Did your income or household recently change?](#) Be sure to let us know if your income or household size recently changed – like if you got a raise or had a baby – by updating your Marketplace application. New coverage options and savings may be available to you. You may qualify for more savings than you're getting now, so don't miss out.

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