



## CMS Snapshot

### October 12-19, 2023

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, October 12 through 2pm Thursday, October 19, 2023

#### News Releases

\*October 12- [Biden-Harris Administration Invests Nearly \\$2 Million in Digital and School-Based Programs Aimed at Protecting Youth from Human Trafficking](#). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), awarded \$1.9 million to four local education agencies to partner with expert non-profit organizations and build school-wide capacity to identify and address students' risk for human trafficking in their communities. This funding is part of the Biden-Harris Administration's whole-of-government response to human trafficking, as outlined in the [National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking](#).

\*October 13- [Biden-Harris Administration Prepares to Kick Off Medicare Open Enrollment and Releases 2024 Medicare Advantage and Part D Star Ratings](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released the 2024 Star Ratings for Medicare Advantage (Medicare Part C) and Medicare Part D to help people with Medicare compare health and prescription drug plans ahead of Medicare Open Enrollment, which kicks off on October 15.

\*October 13- [Project NextGen Selects Initial Vaccine Candidates and Awards Over \\$500 Million to Advance Development of Vaccines and Therapeutics](#). *Vaccine selection brings products closer to clinical trials slated to begin as early as this winter.* Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR), is announcing the selection of initial next-generation vaccine candidates and more than \$500 million in awards for Project NextGen – kick-starting planning for Phase 2b clinical trials and technologies that advance innovative next-generation vaccine and therapeutics platforms.

\*October 13- [HHS and Pfizer Reach Agreement to Increase Patient Access to Paxlovid](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), announced that HHS and Pfizer have reached an agreement that extends patient access to Paxlovid, maximizes taxpayer investment, and begins Paxlovid's transition to the commercial market in November 2023. This agreement builds on HHS and Pfizer's strong partnership over the last three years that enabled the

development, manufacture, and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines and therapeutics at a record pace.

\*October 18- [HHS Office for Civil Rights Issues Resources for Health Care Providers and Patients to Help Educate Patients about Telehealth and the Privacy and Security of Protected Health Information](#). Today, the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), issued two resource documents to help explain to patients the privacy and security risks to their protected health information (PHI) when using telehealth services and ways to reduce these risks.

\*October 18- [Readout of HHS Secretary Becerra's Fireside Chat at the Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum's 13th Annual VOICES Conference](#). *Secretary Becerra highlights the Biden-Harris Administration's commitment to meeting the needs of AA and NHPI communities.* On Wednesday, October 18, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra participated in a fireside chat hosted by the Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum (APIAHF) as a part of their 13<sup>th</sup> annual VOICES Conference. Secretary Becerra was joined by Juliet K. Choi, the President and Chief Executive Officer of APIAHF, a national health justice organization that influences policy, mobilizes communities, and strengthens programs and organizations to improve the health of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders, who moderated the discussion.

## Fact Sheets

\*October 12- [2024 Medicare Parts A & B Premiums and Deductibles](#). On October 12, 2023, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released the 2024 premiums, deductibles, and coinsurance amounts for the Medicare Part A and Part B programs, and the 2024 Medicare Part D income-related monthly adjustment amounts.

\*October 13- [2024 Medicare Advantage and Part D Star Ratings](#). *Note: The information included in this Fact Sheet is based on the 2024 Star Ratings published on the Medicare Plan Finder on October 13, 2023. For details on the Medicare Advantage (MA) and Part D Star Ratings, please refer to the 2024 Part C & D Star Ratings Technical Notes available at <http://go.cms.gov/partcanddstarratings>.* Introduction: The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) publishes the Medicare Advantage (Medicare Part C) and Medicare Part D Star Ratings each year to measure the quality of health and drug services received by consumers enrolled in Medicare Advantage (MA) and Prescription Drug Plans (PDPs or Part D plans).

## Blog

\*October 19- [Get ready: Open Enrollment is less than 2 weeks away](#). Open Enrollment for 2024 starts soon. Are you ready? Take steps today to make applying easier.