



CMS Snapshot

September 7-14, 2023

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, September 7 through 2pm Thursday, September 14, 2023

News Releases

*September 8- [CMS Roundup \(Sep. 8, 2023\)](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) provides an at-a-glance summary of news from around the agency.

*September 8- [988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline Adds American Sign Language Services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Callers](#). *Note to editors and reporters: [B-roll video](#) (MP4 | 314 MB) is available for download and use in reporting, courtesy of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).* WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) today announced the [988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline](#)'s addition of nationwide American Sign Language (ASL) services for people who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing, as part of ongoing efforts to expand accessibility to behavioral health care for underserved communities. Since the July 2022 launch, the 988 Lifeline has received more than 5.5 million calls, texts, and chats, following a nearly \$1 billion investment by the Biden-Harris Administration, and will now be available to the millions of Americans who use ASL.

*September 8- [HHS Announces Details of Partnership with Regeneron to Develop Life-Saving Monoclonal Antibodies](#). *Agreement Promotes the Development and Access to COVID Therapies for Americans.* The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announces new details of its agreement with Regeneron to extend its public-private partnership to develop life-saving monoclonal antibodies as part of Project NextGen enhancing our preparedness for COVID-19 strains and variants.

*September 11- [HHS Office for Civil Rights Settles with L.A. Care Health Plan Over Potential HIPAA Security Rule Violations](#). *LA Care, the largest publicly operated health plan in the country paid \$1,300,000 to settle.* Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office for Civil Rights (OCR) announced a settlement of potential violations of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Rules with LA Care, the nation's largest publicly operated health plan that provides health care benefits and coverage through state, federal, and commercial programs. OCR enforces the [HIPAA Privacy, Security, and Breach Notification](#)

[Rules](#) that set the requirements that HIPAA-regulated entities must follow to protect the privacy and security of protected health information (PHI).

*September 12- [Statement from HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra Following CDC's Recommendation of Updated COVID-19 Vaccines](#). *The updated COVID-19 vaccines can restore protection against the variants responsible for most infections and hospitalizations.* Today, in response to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) [recommendation](#) that everyone six months and older receive an updated COVID-19 vaccine, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra issued the following statement.

*September 13- [HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra Declares Public Health Emergency for Georgia](#). Today, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra declared a [Public Health Emergency \(PHE\)](#) for the state of Georgia to address the health impacts of Hurricane Idalia. The declaration follows [President Biden's emergency declaration](#) and gives the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) health care providers and suppliers greater flexibility in meeting emergency health needs of Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries.

*September 14- [CMS Announces Resources and Flexibilities to Assist with the Public Health Emergency in the State of Georgia](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services announced today additional resources and flexibilities available in response to Hurricane Idalia in the State of Georgia. CMS is working closely with the State of Georgia to put these flexibilities in place to ensure those affected by this natural disaster have access to the care they need – when they need it most.