



CMS Snapshot

June 22-29, 2023

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, June 22 through 2pm Thursday, June 29, 2023

News Releases

*June 22- [HHS Study Shows In-hospital Delivery-related Maternal Death Rates Decreased More than Half from 2008 to 2021](#). *Increases identified in severe maternal morbidity signal the need to better understand and manage risk factors leading to pregnancy-related harm and death.* A large nationally representative study shows in-hospital delivery-related maternal mortality rates improved 57% between 2008 and 2021, despite identified increases in severe maternal morbidity (SMM). This observational study of over 11 million hospital discharges, conducted by the HHS Office on Women's Health (OWH) and published in [JAMA Open Network](#), intends to more clearly define trends and risk factors leading to maternal mortality and morbidity in the United States and to improve overall national prevention and treatment efforts.

*June 22- [HHS Marks 24th Anniversary of the Olmstead Decision](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office for Civil Rights (OCR) celebrates the 24th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's seminal decision in *Olmstead v. L.C.*, with a new national initiative to help drive compliance with the integration mandate and protect the rights of people with disabilities. *Olmstead* recognized that Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act protect the right of people with disabilities to receive services in the most integrated setting appropriate to their needs. OCR enforces these statutes as well as Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act, to ensure that the promise of *Olmstead* is realized for persons with disabilities nationwide.

*June 23- [HHS Announces \\$68.5 Million for Teen Pregnancy Prevention Opportunities](#). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is awarding more than \$68.5 million through cooperative agreements in 29 states and Puerto Rico to support the evidence-based Teen Pregnancy Prevention (TPP) program. The TPP program is a national, competitive grant program that provides funding to replicate and scale evidence-based TPP programs and develop and evaluate new and innovative approaches to improve adolescent sexual health outcomes and promote positive youth development in communities across the United States.

*June 23- [Assistant Secretary Contreras Announces Departure from HHS](#). Today, January Contreras, Assistant Secretary for the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), announced that she will be leaving the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in August. "There is no greater calling than putting our hands to work for others. That's what we do every day at ACF," said Assistant Secretary Contreras. "I will be forever proud to have led the ACF family in service to the hard working people of this great country..."

*June 24- [The Biden-Harris Administration's Commitment to Advancing Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Globally](#). The Biden-Harris Administration remains resolutely committed to advancing and protecting sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) around the world. Increasing access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) information and services improves health and lives of women, children, families, and communities. It is fundamental to accelerating universal health coverage and to expanding preventive care; helps girls to enter and stay in school and expands opportunities for women to participate in the labor force; advances gender equality and equity; and promotes and protects the human rights of women, girls, and LGBTQI+ individuals, particularly those who face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination.

*June 24- [Statement from Secretary Becerra on the One Year Anniversary of the Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization Decision](#). Today, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra released the following statement on the anniversary of the *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* Supreme Court decision. Yesterday, the Secretary visited Planned Parenthood centers in Fairview Heights, IL and St. Louis, MO, including the same clinic he visited a year ago when the Dobbs ruling was announced. "One year ago today, the Supreme Court cast aside a half century of precedent protecting rights and access to abortion and, in the process, undermined women's autonomy, health, privacy, and safety.

*June 26- [HHS Hosts Pride Summit and Celebrates Pride month](#). On Monday, June 26, 2023, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) hosted a Pride Summit featuring hundreds of advocates and allies from the LGBTQI+ community and leaders from across the Biden-Harris Administration. The *HHS Pride Summit* highlighted key accomplishments of the Biden Administration including efforts to improve access to health care services, health equity, support for identity affirmation, and civil rights, as well as forward-looking conversations about continued support for the LGBTQI+ community.

*June 27- [HHS Releases Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans Midcourse Report: Implementation Strategies for Older Adults](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released a [report](#) showcasing evidence-based interventions to support physical activity among adults ages 65 years and older. By the year 2030, 1 in every 5 Americans will be age 65 or over. More than 85 percent of older adults currently have at least 1 chronic health condition. The growing population of older adults can gain substantial health benefits and prevent or manage chronic disease by engaging in physical activity.

*June 28- [HHS Awards \\$31.5 Million in Behavioral Health Grants for Children, Youth and Young Adults](#). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), announced the award of \$31.5 million in behavioral health grants for children, youth and young adults today. Addressing the mental health crisis and overdose epidemic is a top priority of the Biden-Harris Administration, and part of President Biden's Unity Agenda for the nation.

*June 28- [HHS Office for Civil Rights Settles HIPAA Investigation with iHealth Solutions Regarding Disclosure of Protected Health Information on an Unsecured Server for \\$75,000](#). 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) Privacy and Security Rules with iHealth Solutions, LLC (doing business as Advantum Health), a Kentucky-based business associate that provides coding, billing, and onsite information technology services to health care providers. The settlement involved a data breach, where a network server containing the protected health information of 267 individuals was left unsecure on the internet.

*June 29- [Statement from HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra on the Supreme Court's Harvard, University of North Carolina Affirmative Action Decision](#). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra released the following statement today after the court's decision in *Students for Fair Admissions, Inc. v. President and Fellows of Harvard College* and *SFFA v. University of North Carolina, et al.*: "The Supreme Court ruling today weakens efforts to make higher education more accessible to members of historically underrepresented groups. People of color have been excluded from attending medical school and joining medical organizations for generations. While progress has been made, there is still a significant deficit in the number of Black and Latino doctors and medical students."

*June 29- [Statement from HH Secretary Xavier Becerra on CDC's Historic Recommendation Allowing Older and Immunocompromised Adults to Receive the RSV Vaccine](#). Today, in response to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) recommendation of the Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) vaccine for seniors over 60, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra issued the following statement: "For the first time in U.S. history, people 60 years and older can now receive a vaccine for protection against the RSV virus. With this CDC recommendation, the Administration is ensuring that Americans have access to stronger protection against circulating respiratory viruses. As we prepare for the fall vaccine campaign, we will follow the data and science to protect our nation's most vulnerable older adults, those living in nursing or long-term care facilities, and the immunocompromised."

Fact Sheets

*June 22- [Notice with Comment- Transitional Coverage for Emerging technologies \(CMS-3421-NC\)](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a proposed procedural notice outlining a new Medicare coverage pathway to achieve more timely and predictable access to new medical technologies for people with Medicare. The new Transitional Coverage for Emerging Technologies (TCET) pathway for Breakthrough Devices supports both improved patient care and innovation by providing a clear, transparent, and consistent coverage process while maintaining robust safeguards for the Medicare population.

*June 22- [CMS announces new details of plan to cover new Alzheimer's drugs](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is releasing new details about how people can get drugs that may slow the progression of Alzheimer's disease covered by Medicare. If the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) grants traditional approval, then Medicare will cover the drug in appropriate settings that also support the collection of real-world information to study the usefulness of these drugs for people with Medicare.

*June 26 – [Calendar Year 2024 End-Stage Renal Disease \(ESRD\) Prospective Payment System \(PPS\) Proposed Rule \(CMS-1782-P\)](#). On June 26, 2023, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a proposed rule that proposes to update payment rates and policies and includes requests for information under the end-stage renal disease (ESRD) Prospective Payment System (PPS) for renal dialysis services furnished to Medicare beneficiaries on or after January 1, 2024. This rule also proposes an update to the Acute Kidney Injury (AKI) dialysis payment rate for renal dialysis services furnished by ESRD facilities for calendar year (CY) 2024. In addition, the rule proposes to update requirements for the ESRD Quality Incentive Program (QIP).

*June 27- [Update: Enhancing Oncology Model Factsheet](#). The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation's (CMMI) new, voluntary Enhancing Oncology Model (EOM) is intended to transform care for cancer patients, reduce spending, and improve quality of care. EOM is a 5-year voluntary model, beginning on July 1, 2023, that aims to improve quality and reduce costs through payment incentives and required participant redesign activities.

*June 29- [HHS Releases Draft Framework to Accelerate Efforts to Help Americans Avoid and Quit Smoking](#). Today the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health (OASH) is releasing a [draft framework](#) to support and accelerate smoking cessation, building on supports that are already in place for people who want to quit. This framework will be a roadmap to enhance collaboration and coordination across HHS—and with federal and nonfederal stakeholders—to drive further progress toward smoking cessation and to deliver equitable outcomes for all persons in America. HHS is seeking public input on the framework before it is finalized.

Blogs

*June 22- [Transforming Medicare Coverage: A new Medicare Coverage Pathway for Emerging Technologies and Revamped Evidence Development Framework](#). *By: Lee Fleisher, MD; Steve Farmer, MD, PhD; Lori Ashby, MA; and Jonathan Blum, MPP, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.* The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is committed to fostering innovation while ensuring that people with Medicare have faster and more consistent access to emerging technologies that will improve health outcomes. As part of this commitment, today, CMS announced a proposed Transitional Coverage for Emerging Technologies (TCET) pathway. Today's announcement includes a proposed procedural notice and several proposed guidance documents that propose a substantial transformation to our approach to coverage reviews and evidence development.

*June 22- [Commemorating the Olmstead Anniversary with Revitalized Enforcement Initiative](#). *By: [Melanie Fontes Rainer](#), Director for Office for Civil Rights (OCR). Summary: OCR's Revitalized enforcement efforts and education will strengthen protection of federal rights of people with disabilities to live in their communities.* Twenty-four years ago, Lois Curtis and Elaine Wilson helped change the world for people with disabilities. Lois and Elaine, two women with psychiatric and intellectual disabilities, challenged their unjustified segregation in a Georgia psychiatric hospital in a lawsuit that reached the United States Supreme Court.

*June 29- [10 covered Marketplace health benefits](#). All private health insurance plans offered in the Health Insurance Marketplace® must cover the same [essential health benefits](#). Care in these 10 categories of services is covered by all Marketplace plans.