



CMS Snapshot

August 17-24, 2023

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, August 17 through 2pm Thursday, August 24, 2023

News Releases

*August 17- [TRIP ANNOUNCEMENT: HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra Travels to India for the G20 Health Ministers' Meeting](#). On August 18 and 19, 2023, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra (*pronounced Ha-vee-air Beh-sehr-rah*) will travel to Gandhinagar, India to participate in the G20 Health Ministers' meeting and bilateral meetings. In India, Secretary Becerra will emphasize that the partnership with India is one of our nation's most consequential relationships, and the U.S. and India partnership brings health benefits to the region and the world.

*August 21- [Secretary Becerra Welcomes New Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs Jeffrey A. Nesbit](#). Today, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra welcomed Jeffrey A. Nesbit to the role of Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs. He also recognized Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs Kamara Jones for her leadership. "We are excited to have Jeff join the HHS leadership team as Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs. He is a seasoned strategist who has led communications at three federal agencies – including one of our very own, the FDA, where his communications strategies helped the federal government successfully take on the tobacco industry. He has also led communications for a vice president.

*August 21- [Readout of HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra's Visit to India for the G20 Health Ministers' Meeting](#). On August 18 and 19, 2023, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra joined health ministers from across the world in Gandhinagar, India, to participate in the G20 Health Ministers' Meeting to discuss global health issues. During the G20 Health Ministers' Meeting, Secretary Becerra shared with other G20 health ministers and representatives of invited countries and international organizations the United States Government's perspective on several topics, including strengthening global health security and pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response (PPR), enhancing cooperation to increase access to vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics, and advancing digital health innovation to improve health care access and delivery.

*August 21- [CMS Issues Draft Guidance on New Program to Allow People with Medicare to Pay Out-of-Pocket Prescription Drug Costs in Monthly Payments](#). President Biden’s prescription drug law, the Inflation Reduction Act, gives people with Medicare prescription drug coverage (Medicare Part D) the option to pay out-of-pocket costs in monthly payments spread out over the year, starting in 2025. Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released draft guidance for comment that outlines the requirements and procedures for certain aspects of the new Medicare Prescription Payment Plan. By enabling seniors and people with disabilities with Medicare Part D coverage to spread out cost sharing over the year, the program could reduce the burden of high upfront out-of-pocket prescription drug costs.

*August 22- [Project NextGen Awards Over \\$1.4 Billion to Develop the Future of COVID-19 Vaccines and Therapeutics](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR), awarded more than \$1.4 billion for Project NextGen to support the development of a new generation of tools and technologies to protect against COVID-19 for years to come. The awards announced today follow extensive coordination with industry partners and include support for clinical trials that will enable the rapid development of even more effective and longer-lasting coronavirus vaccines, a new monoclonal antibody, and transformative technologies to streamline manufacturing processes.

*August 23- [HHS Launches National Sarcopenia Awareness Campaign](#). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office on Women’s Health (OWH) has launched a new nationwide campaign, “Stronger than Sarcopenia,” [sar-ko-pee-ni-uh], to raise awareness of sarcopenia in women, a condition characterized by loss of muscle mass, strength, and function in adults 65 and older. Sarcopenia can significantly decrease a person’s quality of life and lead to other health problems, including an increased risk of debilitating falls and fractures.

*August 23- [Biden-Harris Administration Awards More Than \\$64 Million in Grants to Fund Mental Health Services and Awareness Training Across United States and Territories](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced that it has awarded, more than \$64 million in funding to address the nation’s mental health crisis through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Tackling the mental health crisis is a top priority of the Biden-Harris Administration, and it is a key part of President Biden’s Unity Agenda for the nation.

Blogs

*August 22- [Exploring the Ethics & Practice of Psychedelics Research](#). By: [Julie Kaneshiro](#), *Acting Director, Office for Human Research Protections (OHRP)*. At the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), we are committed to addressing the suffering many Americans experience from mental health and substance use issues, many of which have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. With the aim of considering all promising and

innovative approaches to addressing our nation's mental health and substance use crisis, HHS is interested in exploring the potential of psychedelic-assisted therapies as treatments for a myriad of mental health conditions.

*August 22- [CMS is Taking Action to Address Benefit Integrity Issues Related to Hospice Care.](#)

By: Dara A. Corrigan and Dora L. Hughes, MD, MPH, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

Effective oversight and enforcement are important to protect the integrity of the Medicare program, especially for vulnerable, seriously ill individuals and their families. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has an important role to play in ensuring that hospices are providing necessary and critical, high-quality care to our Medicare beneficiaries at the end of life.