



## CMS Snapshot

### September 28- October 5, 2023

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, September 28 through 2pm Thursday, October 5, 2023

#### News Releases

\*September 28- [HHS Awards \\$2.1 Million for Health Equity Leadership Development Initiative](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Minority Health (OMH) announced \$2.1 million in grants to three organizations for the Health Equity Leadership Development Initiative. The awards will support a three-year initiative to implement HHS fellowships that provide training in health equity issues and leadership to early career individuals.

\*September 28- [HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra Statement on National Sickle Cell Awareness Month](#). Today, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra released the following statement to celebrate September as National Sickle Cell Awareness Month.

\*September 29- [CMS Requests Public Input on Coverage of Over-the-Counter Preventive Services, Including Contraception, Tobacco Cessation, and Breastfeeding Supplies](#). The Departments of Health and Human Services, Labor, and the Treasury (the Departments) are seeking public input on how best to ensure coverage and access to over-the-counter (OTC) preventive services, including the benefits of requiring most health insurance plans to cover these services at no cost and without a prescription by a health care provider. This new Request for Information (RFI) solicits comment on access to a range of OTC items recommended by experts for preventive care that can be purchased without a prescription, including contraceptives, tobacco smoking cessation products, folic acid during pregnancy, and breastfeeding supplies.

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for Information (RFI) solicits comment on access to a range of OTC items recommended by experts for preventive care that can be purchased without a prescription, including contraceptives, tobacco smoking cessation products, folic acid during pregnancy, and breastfeeding supplies.

\*September 29- [HHS Takes Action to Provide 12 Months of Mandatory Continuous Coverage for Children in Medicaid and CHIP](#). *Letter sent to state health officials in all 50 states, D.C., and US territories.* Today, as part of its ongoing work to make sure all Americans have access to health care coverage, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), sent a letter to state health officials reinforcing that states must provide 12 months of continuous coverage for children under the age of 19 on Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) beginning January 1, 2024.

\*September 29- [HHS Secretary Becerra's Statement on the Passing of Senator Dianne Feinstein](#). Today, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra released the following statement on the end of the passing of Senator Dianne Feinstein.

\*September 29- [HHS Awards \\$1.9 Million for a National Lupus Outreach and Clinical Trial Education Initiative](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Minority Health (OMH) announced more than \$1.9 million in grants to four organizations for its National Lupus Outreach and Clinical Trial Education Initiative. Over a three-year period, awardees will identify and sustain effective interventions to advance clinical trial diversity and to ultimately reduce health disparities experienced by racial and ethnic minority individuals with lupus.

\*September 29- [HHS Announces Proposed Regulation to Strengthen Services and Protections for Unaccompanied Children in Its Care](#). *The Proposed Foundational Rule Will Provide Regulatory Structure for HHS' Office of Refugee Resettlement's Unaccompanied Children Program and Codify Obligations of the Flores Settlement Agreement.* Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services through the Administration for Children and Families' (ACF) Office of Refugee Resettlement announced the publication of a proposed "Foundational" rule for ORR's Unaccompanied Children (UC) Program.

\*September 29- [HHS Awards \\$4 Million for the Center for Indigenous Innovation and Health Equity](#). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Minority Health (OMH) announced it has awarded two organizations \$4 million to support its [Center for Indigenous Innovation and Health Equity](#) (CIIHE). The awards will support a five-year initiative to advance sustainable solutions that address Indigenous health disparities and advance health equity in American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) and Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (NHPI) communities.

\*September 29- [ICYMI: Biden-Harris Administration Announces Over \\$330 Million Dollars in New Funding to Advance Biden Cancer Moonshot Initiative, Improve Health Care Research, Treatment, and Outcomes for the American Public](#). *ARPA-H Projects Take on Cancer, Organ*

*Transplants, Superbugs, and Improving Immunity.* This week, the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H), an agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), announced a series of research projects totaling over \$330 million dollars that will support biomedical health breakthroughs aimed at improving health solutions and health care for the American public.

\*October 3- [Biden-Harris Administration Moves Forward with Medicare Drug Price Negotiations to Lower Prescription Drug Costs for People with Medicare.](#) *10 companies manufacturing some of the costliest prescription drugs to participate in first-ever direct negotiations with Medicare.* Today, the Biden-Harris Administration announced that all 10 drug companies whose drugs were selected for price negotiation with Medicare for the first cycle of the program have decided to participate in those negotiations. These companies manufacture some of the costliest and most commonly used prescription drugs.

\*October 3- [Statement by CMS Administrator Chiquita Brooks-LaSure on Manufacturers of Selected Drugs Who Have Indicated They Intend to Participate in the Medicare Drug Price Negotiation Program.](#) For the first time, Medicare is able to directly negotiate the prices of prescription drugs due to President Biden's prescription drug law, the Inflation Reduction Act. Today, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Administrator Chiquita Brooks-LaSure issued the following statement on the announcement that the drug companies that manufacture all 10 drugs selected for the Medicare Drug Price Negotiation Program for the first cycle have chosen to participate in the Negotiation Program. The negotiations with participating drug companies for the selected drugs will occur in 2023 and 2024 with the negotiated prices effective beginning in 2026.

\*October 4- [SAMHSA Announces Nearly \\$35M in Grant Awards for Comprehensive Behavioral Health Care and HIV Prevention and Care for Historically Underserved Populations.](#) The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has awarded nearly \$35 million in grant funding this month to bring essential behavioral health services and HIV prevention and care to historically underserved populations. Health equity remains a critical focus of the Biden-Harris Administration, and these funds represent the continued commitment by the administration to address and remedy inequity of care.

\*October 5- [HHS Releases Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to Update 2005 Public Health Service Policies on Research Misconduct.](#) *ORI issues proposed updates on the PHS Policies on Research Misconduct and seeks comments from the public, including research integrity stakeholders across diverse research communities.* The Office of Research Integrity (ORI) has issued a [Notice of Proposed Rulemaking \(NPRM\)](#) to update the 2005 Public Health Service (PHS) Policies on Research Misconduct. The current regulation establishes the requirements for addressing research misconduct in PHS-funded research. Its purpose is to promote integrity in research, establish the definitions and processes to assess and investigate allegations of research misconduct, ensure the appropriate handling of research misconduct by PHS-funded institutions, and authorize administrative actions, when necessary.

## Blogs

\*September 29- [Happy National Hispanic Heritage Month - Latinos: Driving Prosperity, Power and Progress in America](#). By: [Melanie Fontes Rainer](#), *Director for Office for Civil Rights (OCR)*.

Summary: Happy National Hispanic Heritage Month! This year's theme is "Latinos: Driving Prosperity, Power and Progress in America." Happy National Hispanic Heritage Month! This year's theme is "Latinos: Driving Prosperity, Power and Progress in America." That theme has made me reflect upon my own family's history in this country and how far we've come.