



CMS Snapshot

July 6-13, 2023

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, July 6 through 2pm Thursday, July 13, 2023

News Releases

*July 6- [Statement: Broader Medicare Coverage of Leqembi Available Following FDA Traditional Approval](#). Broader Medicare coverage is now available for Biogen and Eisai's Leqembi (the brand name for lecanemab) following the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) move to grant traditional approval to the drug that treats individuals with Alzheimer's disease. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services had previously announced this would be the case and released more details on coverage today.

*July 7- [HHS Announces Actions to Protect Consumers and Lower Health Care Costs](#). *New Report Projects Nearly 19 Million Seniors Will Save \$400 Per Year on Out-of-Pocket Prescription Drug Costs*. Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), announced actions to protect consumers from junk health plans, surprise medical bills, and excess costs that lead to medical debt. These actions build on the Biden-Harris Administration's effort to eliminate hidden fees in every sector of the economy and lower health care costs for American seniors and families.

*July 11- [New Rule Proposed to Improve Child Care Access, Affordability, and Stability](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), announced a new proposed rule that will help more families access the child care they need and better support child care providers in the essential work they do for communities across the country. The proposed rule will lower costs for families, increase financial stability for providers, and reduce paperwork for families trying to access subsidies.

*July 11- [HHS Issues Proposed Rule to Advance Non-discrimination in Health and Human Service Programs for LGBTQI+ Community](#). *Proposal reaffirms federal protections against discrimination in HHS grants and makes clear civil rights protections previously restricted*. Today, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) through the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) and the Assistant Secretary for Financial Resources (ASFR) announced a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) to affirm civil rights and equal opportunity for people nationwide in HHS funded programs and services. The proposed rule, *Health and Human Services Grants*

Regulation (HHS Grants Rule), if finalized, would protect LGBTQI+ people from discrimination in important health and human services programs by clarifying and reaffirming the prohibition on discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity in certain statutes.

*July 13- [Letter to COVID-19 Vaccine Manufacturers](#). Dear COVID-19 Vaccine Manufacturers, We are appreciative of your strong partnership over the last three years, which has seen the development, manufacture, and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines at a record pace. Your collaboration and dedication to this mission have enabled the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to deliver safe and effective medical countermeasures to the American public more efficiently and equitably than ever before. To put it simply, you have been an instrumental part of a vaccination campaign that has saved millions of lives.

*July 13- [Statement by HHS Secretary Becerra on FDA Approval of First Daily Over-the-Counter Oral Contraceptive](#). Today, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced it has approved Opill (0.075 mg oral norgestrel tablet) for nonprescription use to prevent pregnancy— the first daily oral contraceptive approved for use in the U.S. without a prescription. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra issued the following statement.

*July 13- [988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline Adds Spanish Text and Chat Service Ahead of One-Year Anniversary](#). *The 988 Lifeline answered nearly 5 million contacts in the past year – 2 million more than the previous 12 months – following \$1 billion Biden-Harris Administration investment. Specialized services for LGBTQI+ youth and young adults were expanded, following a successful pilot test. Note to editors and reporters: [B-roll video](#) is available for download and use in reporting, courtesy of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).* One year after the rollout of the [988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline](#), the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and its 988 Lifeline partners announced the addition of [Spanish text and chat](#) services. Specialized services for LGBTQI+ youth and young adults were also added earlier this month, following a successful pilot test. The 988 Lifeline is part of the Biden-Harris Administration’s comprehensive strategy to address the nation’s mental health crisis, and to date, the Administration has invested nearly \$1 billion into this life-saving initiative. This investment is driving an increase in calls, texts and chats, with nearly 5 million contacts answered in the past year — and helped millions of people in crisis.

Fact Sheets

*July 7- [Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System: Remedy for the 340B-Acquired Drug Payment Policy for Calendar Years 2018-2022 Proposed Rule \(CMS 1793-P\)](#). On July 7, 2023, in light of the Supreme Court’s decision in *American Hospital Association v. Becerra* (142 S. Ct. 1896 (2022)) and the district court’s remand to the agency, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a proposed rule outlining the proposed remedy for the 340B-acquired drug payment policy for Calendar Years 2018-2022. CMS is publishing this proposed

rule to remedy the payment rates the Court held were invalid. Aspects of this proposed policy will affect nearly all hospitals paid under the OPPS.

*July 7- [Short-Term, Limited-Duration Insurance; Independent, Noncoordinated Excepted Benefits Coverage; Level-Funded Plan Arrangements; and Tax Treatment of Certain Accident and Health Insurance \(CMS-9904-P\)](#). On July 7, 2023, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the Department of Labor, and the Department of the Treasury (collectively, the Departments) released a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM). This NPRM proposes to modify the definition of short-term, limited-duration insurance (STLDI) and modify the conditions for hospital indemnity or other fixed indemnity insurance to be considered an excepted benefit. The NPRM also solicits comments regarding specified disease excepted benefits coverage and comments regarding level-funded plan arrangements. The NPRM further includes a proposal from the Department of the Treasury (Treasury) and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) that would clarify the tax treatment of certain benefit payments in fixed amounts received under employer-provided accident and health plans.

Blog

*July13- [Moving can impact your health coverage](#). As you get ready to move, it's important to know that your new address may impact your health coverage options and savings. Don't forget to update your Marketplace application to get the best plan for your household, and the right amount of savings.