



CMS Snapshot

May 4-11, 2023

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, May 4 through 2pm Thursday, May 11, 2023

News Releases

*May 4- [Statement from HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra on Passing of HHS Employee Following Atlanta Shooting](#). More Americans died of gun-related injuries in 2021 than in any other year on record, according to the latest available statistics from the CDC. Today, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra released the following statement in response to the passing of a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) employee who was killed in Atlanta, Georgia, on May 3, 2023.

*May 5- [CMS Roundup \(May 5, 2023\)](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is providing an at-a-glance summary of news from around the agency.

*May 5- [Secretary Becerra Announces New Initiatives at HHS Mental Health Summit to Strengthen Access to Mental Health Care](#). [FindSupport.gov](#) and *HHS Children and Youth Resilience Challenge* will increase access to health resources and support. Secretary Becerra, at the HHS Mental Health Summit, announced new initiatives by the Biden-Harris Administration to increase access to mental health resources and support. The two initiatives – [FindSupport.gov](#) and the [HHS Children and Youth Resilience Challenge](#) – will increase access to health resources and support for those working to address mental health challenges.

*May 5- [HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra Statement on CDC Director](#). Today, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra released the following statement on Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky's announcement that she plans to depart the public health agency at the end of June.

*May 8- [HHS Office for Civil Rights Enters Into \\$15,000 Settlement Resolving Potential HIPAA Violation Under the Right of Access Initiative](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office for Civil Rights announced a settlement with David Mente, MA, LPC ("Mente"), a licensed counselor providing psychotherapy services in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, concerning a potential violation of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Privacy

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Rule's right of access provision. The rule requires that patients be able to access their health information in a timely manner.

*May 8- [Statement by Secretary Xavier Becerra on National Nurses Week](#). Today, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra issued the following statement to mark National Nurses Week: "America's nurses are the beating heart of our health care system. They are talented, skilled professionals who serve as vocal and valuable advocates for their patients, colleagues, communities, and themselves."

*May 9- [Readout of HHS Deputy Secretary Palm's Trip to Alaska to Visit Native Communities](#). *Deputy Secretary Palm on her Trip Reiterated the Biden-Harris Administration's Commitment to Serve Communities and Tribes across Alaska*. Over the last several days, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Deputy Secretary Andrea Palm conducted an official trip to Alaska, visiting with Native communities and touring health facilities making use of HHS funding. During her visit, the Deputy Secretary delivered remarks at the National Indian Health Board Tribal Health Conference in Anchorage, Alaska and traveled across the state to Minto, Tanana, Rampart, Utqiagvik, Angoon, and Sitka.

*May 9- [Readout of HHS Secretary Becerra's In-Person Roundtable Meeting with Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Leaders](#). *HHS hosts discussion to highlight the Biden-Harris Administration's commitment to meeting the needs of AA and NHPI communities*. On Monday, May 8th, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra hosted a roundtable discussion with leaders of 11 national organizations serving Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AA and NHPI) communities. Secretary Becerra was joined by Krystal Ka'ai, Executive Director of the White House Initiative on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders (WHIAANHPI), who moderated the discussion.

*May 10- [Letter to U.S. Governors from HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra On planning for the COVID-19 PHE](#). Dear Governor: On [February 9](#), I announced that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is planning for the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE), as declared under section 319 of the Public Health Service Act, to end on May 11. As we near that date, I write to thank you for your strong partnership and commitment throughout the COVID-19 response and share additional information and resources that will be helpful as we transition away from the COVID-19 PHE.

*May 10- [HHS Office for Civil Rights Settles Complaint with Florida Health Center that Failed to Provide Effective Communication for a Patient's Caregiver](#). *Resolution agreement requires the Federally Qualified Health Center to fully comply with the non-discrimination requirements of federal civil rights laws*. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office for Civil Rights (OCR), entered into a Voluntary Resolution Agreement with MCR Health, Inc., to resolve a disability discrimination complaint based on Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Section 1557 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. The resolution resolves a

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complaint filed by an individual who is deaf and hard of hearing, alleging that MCR Health failed to provide her with auxiliary aids and services when she requested an interpreter be present for her while she attended her husband's post-surgical medical appointment, as his companion.

*May 11- [HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra Statement on End of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency](#). Today, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra released the following statement on the end of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE).

Fact Sheets

*May 9- [Fact Sheet: End of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency](#). Based on current COVID-19 trends, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is planning for the federal Public Health Emergency (PHE) for COVID-19, declared under Section 319 of the Public Health Service (PHS) Act, to expire at the end of the day on May 11, 2023.

*May 10- [HHS Fact Sheet: Telehealth Flexibilities and Resources and the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency](#). As the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS or the Department) continues the process of transitioning away from the policies enabled by the COVID-19 emergency declarations, the Department would like to provide clarity regarding the future of federal flexibilities related to telehealth and tele prescribing to ensure that patients may continue to access and receive the care that they need. Below is a Fact Sheet outlining key details of what will change and what will stay the same for patients and providers when the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE) declared by the Secretary of HHS under Public Health Service Act section 319 (referred to below as the "COVID-19 PHE") PHE ends.