



CMS Snapshot

August 31-September 7, 2023

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, August 31 through 2pm Thursday, September 7, 2023

News Releases

*August 31- [Statement from Secretary Becerra on International Overdose Awareness Day](#). *Secretary announces new overdose prevention funding.* Drug overdose does not discriminate – rich or poor, Black or white, urban or suburban, drug overdoses reach every corner of our society. On this Overdose Awareness Day, we reflect on the toll that substance misuse takes, both in terms of lives lost and the immeasurable pain it brings to families and communities.

*September 1- [HHS Proposes Minimum Staffing Standards to Enhance Safety and Quality in Nursing Homes](#). *Builds on President Biden’s Historic Commitment to Create a Long-Term Care System Where People Can Live with Dignity.* Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), issued a proposed rule that seeks to establish comprehensive staffing requirements for nursing homes—including, for the first time, national minimum nurse staffing standards—to ensure access to safe, high-quality care for the over 1.2 million residents living in nursing homes each day. This proposed rule builds on the President’s historic [Action Plan for Nursing Home Reform](#) launched in the 2022 State of the Union.

*September 1- [Statement by HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra Recognizing National Recovery Month](#). National Recovery Month represents an opportunity to recognize the strength and resilience of individuals who have triumphed over addiction and mental health challenges. Mental health and substance use disorders (SUD) are often misunderstood, stigmatized, and overlooked, but at their heart are people in despair looking for an open door and a helping hand.

*September 1- [Statement from Secretary Becerra on National Suicide Awareness Month](#). *Secretary Announces Nearly \$12 Million Investment in a Suicide Prevention Program.* This National Suicide Awareness Month we are reminded that suicide is preventable, and no one should go through a crisis alone. It is distressing to note that, in 2021, per the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s (SAMHSA) National Survey on Drug Use and Health, roughly 12.3 million adults and 3.3 million adolescents had serious suicidal thoughts.

And the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that suicide was the second-leading cause of death of youth and young adults. These data underscore the need for action.

*September 5- [CMS Announces Transformative Model to Give States Incentives and Flexibilities to Redesign Health Care Delivery, Improve Equitable Access to Care](#). *Model aims to improve the overall health of a state population by ensuring providers are delivering efficient, high-quality, and coordinated care to patients.* Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) unveiled a transformative step to test a state's ability to improve the overall health care management of its state population. The States Advancing All-Payer Health Equity Approaches and Development Model ("States Advancing AHEAD" or "AHEAD Model") aims to better address chronic disease, behavioral health, and other medical conditions. Under the AHEAD Model, participating states will be better equipped to promote health equity, increase access to primary care services, set health care expenditures on a more sustainable trajectory, and lower health care costs for patients.

*September 7- [HHS Issues New Proposed Rule to Strengthen Prohibitions Against Discrimination on the Basis of a Disability in Health Care and Human Services Programs](#). *Significant updates to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act rule 50 years after the law was enacted to advance equity and bolster protections for people with disabilities.* The Biden-Harris Administration is taking further action on its commitment to promote access to health care and human services for persons with disabilities. Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through its Office for Civil Rights (OCR), announced a proposed rule that prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability. The rule, Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability in Programs or Activities Receiving Federal Financial Assistance, updates critical provisions that help persons with disabilities access health and human services under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The rule, originally published in 1977, advances the promise of the Rehabilitation Act and helps to ensure that people with disabilities are not subjected to discrimination in any program or activity receiving funding from HHS just because they have a disability.

Fact Sheet

*September 1- [Medicare and Medicaid Programs: Minimum Staffing Standards for Long-Term Care Facilities and Medicaid Institutional Payment Transparency Reporting \(CMS 3442-P\)](#). On September 1, 2023, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued the Minimum Staffing Standards for Long-Term Care (LTC) Facilities and Medicaid Institutional Payment Transparency Reporting proposed rule, which seeks to establish comprehensive nurse staffing requirements to hold nursing homes accountable for providing safe and high-quality care for the over [1.2 million residents](#) receiving care in Medicare and Medicaid-certified LTC facilities each day.

Blogs

*September 5- [OCIO's "Team of Teams"](#). By: [Karl Mathias Ph.D.](#), Chief Information Officer (CIO). Summary: OCIO Ops leadership team read Stanley McChrystal's book "Team of Teams: New Rules of Engagement for a Complex World," and gathered for a retreat on August 30. Avery Q. Muse joined the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) as the Executive Director, Office of Operations (Ops), in May 2023. Prior to joining HHS OCIO, Avery worked in several important roles including the Deputy Chief Information Officer of the U.S. Capitol Police, Chief of Service Management at the U.S. Marshalls Service, and Chief of Customer Support at the U.S. Department of Defense Joint staff where Avery served under General Stanley McChrystal.

*September 6- [Thank you to the 2023 Civic Digital Fellows](#). By: [Kathleen Carroll](#), U.S. Digital Corps Fellow, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, [Hayley Barton](#), Civic Digital Fellow, Office of the Chief Data Officer (OCDO), [Suhan Kacholia](#), Civic Digital Fellow, OCDO, [Ryan Manthy](#), Civic Digital Fellow, OASH, HHS, [Vivian Wang](#), Civic Digital Fellows, OASH, HHS and [Ghelatia Araia MPH](#), KidneyX ORISE Fellow, OASH, HHS. Summary: HHS hosted four Civic Digital Fellows, early-career technologists, over the summer of 2023. Each year, emerging civic technologists dedicate their summer to innovating in local, state, and federal government offices across the United States through the [Civic Digital Fellowship](#). The cohort includes fellows from diverse backgrounds, experience levels, and locations who share a mission of using their skills to make impactful change. This summer, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) welcomed four fellows who brought their expertise in product management, data analytics, computer science, and design to the table to work on high-impact projects.

*September 7- [Don't miss out: Connect with the Marketplace in 3 simple ways](#). Open Enrollment for 2024 Marketplace health plans starts November 1. Don't lose out on valuable health insurance information and deadline reminders this fall by connecting with the Marketplace today.