



CMS Snapshot

April 13-20, 2023

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, April 13 through 2pm Thursday, April 20, 2023

News Releases

*April 13- [HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra Statement on Biden-Harris Administration Seeking a Stay in *Braidwood v. Becerra*](#). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra released the following statement today after the U.S. Department of Justice announced it was seeking a stay in *Braidwood v. Becerra*.

*April 13- [HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra Statement on CMS Submission of Proposed Rule that Would Expand Access to Coverage for DACA Recipients](#). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra released the following statement today after the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services submitted a proposed rule that would expand access to coverage for DACA recipients.

*April 13- [HHS Celebrates Black Maternal Health Week 2023](#). *Funding announcements and events reflect ongoing commitment to advance Biden-Harris Administration's goals of improving maternal health and advancing equity.* The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is celebrating Black Maternal Health Week, which takes place April 11 –17 each year during National Minority Health Month, with announcements and events across the Department and its agencies.

*April 14- [Letter to U.S. Governors from HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra on renewing COVID-19 Public Health Emergency \(PHE\)](#). “Dear Governor: As I shared in my February 9 [letter](#) to you, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is planning for the federal Public Health Emergency (PHE) declared under the Public Health Service Act for COVID-19 to end on May 11. While COVID-19 is not over, we are in a position to end the emergency phase of our response because of the Administration’s whole-of-government approach to combatting the virus. Along with the February 9 letter, I shared a [Fact Sheet](#) explaining some of what will and will not change as a result of the end of the PHE.”

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*April 17- [HHS Finalizes Policies to Make Coverage More Accessible and Expand Behavioral Health Care Access for Millions of Americans in 2024](#). Today, the Biden-Harris Administration, through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), announced measures that will make coverage more accessible, expand behavioral health care access, simplify choice, and make it easier for millions of Americans to select a health plan in 2024.

*April 17- [HHS Releases New Guidance to Encourage States to Apply for New Medicaid Reentry Section 1115 Demonstration Opportunity to Increase Health Care for People Leaving Carceral Facilities](#). *New guidance can help people at high risk of substance use disorders and other health conditions get the care they need, especially as they transition from incarceration back to the community.* The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), is announcing a new opportunity for states to help increase care for individuals who are incarcerated in the period immediately prior to their release to help them succeed and thrive during reentry.

*April 17- [HHS Cybersecurity Task Force Provides New Resources to Help Address Rising Threat of Cyberattacks in Health and Public Health Sector](#). *Effort is led by the HHS 405(d) Program and the Health Sector Coordinating Council Cybersecurity Working Group (HSCC CWG), as a collaborative effort between the federal government and industry, to address cybersecurity in the health sector. Resources include a new platform, Knowledge on Demand, to provide free cybersecurity training to the health sector workforce as well as an updated Health Industry Cybersecurity Practices 2023 Edition and a Hospital Cyber Resiliency Initiative Landscape Analysis.* On April 17, 2023, The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) 405(d) Program announced the release of the following resources to help address cybersecurity concerns in the Healthcare and Public Health (HPH) Sector:

*April 18- [CMS Approves Illinois Proposal to Expand Access to Care for Kids in Schools](#). *Action by the Biden-Harris Administration will make more Medicaid funding available for school-based health services in Illinois, improving health care access, including mental health services.* Today, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), approved a state plan amendment (SPA) that will provide Illinois more Medicaid funding for eligible children receiving Medicaid-covered health care services in schools. This approval advances the expansion of school-based health services, a key priority for the Biden-Harris Administration to improve health care access, especially for youth mental health services. Today's action is also part of ongoing efforts by HHS in support of President Biden's call to address the nation's mental health crisis, including its impact on children.

*April 18- [Readout of HHS Secretary Becerra's Roundtable on Black Maternal Health](#). *HHS hosted a roundtable discussion to highlight the Biden-Harris Administration's commitment to improving maternal health.* To commemorate Black Maternal Health Week (April 11-17), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra hosted a roundtable discussion on Monday, April 17, 2023, to highlight the Biden-Harris Administration's

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commitment to improving maternal health outcomes for Black Americans. Among other topics, the group discussed best practices and innovative models used to improve maternal and infant health outcomes and advance equity.

*April 19- [Statement from HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra on CDC's Recommendation Allowing Older and Immunocompromised Adults to Receive Second Dose of Updated Vaccine](#). *COVID-19 vaccines are free, and safe and effective at providing protection against the virus's worst health outcomes.* Today, in response to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) actions to simplify COVID-19 vaccine recommendations and allow more flexibility for people at higher risk who want the option to receive an additional COVID-19 vaccine dose, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra issued the statement below:

*April 20- [For the First Time, HHS Is Making Ownership Data for All Medicare-Certified Hospice and Home Health Agencies Publicly Available](#). The Biden-Harris Administration has made promoting competition and protecting consumers a top priority. Today, in support of the President's Executive Order on promoting competition and the Administration's commitment to transparency, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is releasing ownership data for all Medicare-certified hospice and home health agencies. For the first time, anyone can now review detailed information on the ownership of more than 6,000 hospices and 11,000 home health agencies certified to participate in the Medicare program on the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) website.

Fact Sheet

*April 14- [Fact Sheet: HHS Announces Intent to Amend the Declaration Under the PREP Act for Medical Countermeasures Against COVID-19](#). Today, Secretary Becerra is announcing that in the coming weeks, he will issue an amendment to the declaration under the *Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness* (PREP) Act for medical countermeasures against COVID-19. The PREP Act declaration has been a key tool for ensuring that Americans have broad access to critical COVID-19 countermeasures including vaccines, tests, and treatments. The PREP Act declaration has provided flexibilities and protections for those individuals and entities who have been involved in providing these critical tools that have helped the United States get to a better place with COVID-19.

*April 17- [HHS Notice of Benefit and Payment Parameters for 2024 Final Rule](#). In the HHS Notice of Benefit and Payment Parameters for 2024 final rule released today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) finalized standards for issuers and Marketplaces, as well as requirements for agents, brokers, web-brokers, and Assistors that help consumers with enrollment through Marketplaces that use the Federal platform. These changes further the Biden-Harris Administration's goals of advancing health equity by addressing the health disparities that underlie our health system.

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*April 18- [Fact Sheet: HHS Announces ‘HHS Bridge Access Program For COVID-19 Vaccines and Treatments’ to Maintain Access to COVID-19 Care for the Uninsured](#). Thanks to the Biden-Harris Administration’s whole-of-government approach to combatting COVID-19, we are now in a better place in our response than at any point of the pandemic. One of the critical components of our response has been ensuring all Americans have easy access to COVID-19 vaccines free of charge. Over the last two years, the Biden-Harris Administration has effectively implemented the largest adult vaccination program in U.S. history, with nearly 700 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines given to 270 million Americans.

Blogs

*April 18- [Calling On Partners to Help People Stay Covered](#). *January Contreras, Assistant Secretary, Administration for Children and Families and CMS Administrator Chiquita Brooks-LaSure*. The Medicaid “continuous enrollment” period is ending. As trusted community voices, you can help millions of children and families stay connected to affordable, comprehensive care through Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), Medicare, the Health Insurance Marketplaces, or employer-sponsored coverage.

*April 20- [Preventive services you don’t want to skip](#). Now that you have Marketplace coverage, take advantage of the many free preventive services to help you stay healthy and get the care you need. Getting these services and making healthy lifestyle choices are key steps to good health and well-being. Check with your doctor to find out what services are right for you.

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