



CMS Snapshot

November 9-16, 2023

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, November 9 through 2pm Thursday, November 16, 2023

News Releases

*November 13- [HHS Office for Civil Rights Settles with Massachusetts Skilled Nursing Facility Regarding Disability Discrimination](#). *This latest action sends a clear message to health care providers that denying admission to individuals because they are undergoing treatment for recovery is against the law.* Today, the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and United States Attorney's Office in the District of Massachusetts announced an agreement with North End Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center ("North End"), a skilled nursing facility in Boston, MA. North End offers clinical services, subacute rehab, chronic kidney disease management, a ventilator program, long term care, respite care, and urgent SNF services.

*November 13- [Biden-Harris Administration Reiterates Urgent Call for Congress to Help Strengthen Addiction Treatment, Crack Down on Drug Trafficking as HHS Releases New Data on Substance Use Disorder](#). *"The President is fighting for more funding to expand access to treatment and keep deadly drugs like fentanyl out of our communities. We know Congress can and must come together on this issue – the American people deserve no less."* Washington, D.C. – Today, amid new data released on substance use across the nation, the Biden-Harris Administration reiterated President Biden's clear and urgent call for Congress to provide critical additional resources to strengthen addiction treatment and crack down on drug trafficking.

*November 13- [HHS, SAMHSA Release 2022 National Survey on Drug Use and Health Data](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), released the results of the [2022 National Survey on Drug Use and Health \(NSDUH\)](#). The report shows how people living in United States reported about their experience with mental health, substance use, and treatment related behaviors in 2022. The report is accompanied by a [high-level brief](#) that includes infographics.

*November 14- [With Missouri Approval, 40 States Now Offer Full Year of Medicaid Coverage After Pregnancy](#). *Thanks to the Biden-Harris Administration's efforts to strengthen maternal health, an estimated 641,000 Americans annually are now eligible for essential care for a full*

year after pregnancy. Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), announced Missouri's extension of comprehensive coverage after pregnancy through Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) for postpartum individuals for a full 12 months. Today's announcement marks critical progress in implementing the [CMS Maternity Care Action Plan](#), which supports the [Biden-Harris Administration's Maternal Health Blueprint](#), a comprehensive strategy aimed at improving maternal health, particularly in underserved communities.

*November 15- [Biden-Harris Administration Continues Unprecedented Efforts to Increase Transparency of Nursing Home Ownership](#). *Final rule will require disclosure of new information to shine a light on private equity ownership.* The Biden-Harris Administration is taking additional action to empower nursing home residents and their families to make informed decisions about care and to hold nursing homes accountable for the service they provide by requiring nursing homes to disclose additional ownership and management information to CMS and states and making this information public.

*November 15- [Readout: HHS Hosts Roundtable Marking National Rural Health Day](#). *Biden Harris-Administration Hosted a Roundtable to Hear Directly from Rural Health Care Leaders about Access to Health Care Services in Rural Communities.* As part of the Biden-Harris Administration's *Investing in Rural America* Series, on Monday, November 13, 2023, Andrea Palm, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Deputy Secretary; Carole Johnson, Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA); Mandy Cohen, M.D., Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); and Meena Seshamani, M.D., Deputy Director of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and Director for Center of Medicare, met with leading rural health care provider, consumer and advocacy organizations to mark National Rural Health Day and discuss the work of the Administration to advance the health and well-being of rural Americans. National Rural Health Day is celebrated each November to highlight efforts to ensure access to health care services in rural communities across the country.

*November 15- [Readout of ADM Rachel Levine's visit to Georgia to learn about the impacts of congenital syphilis and syphilis](#). On Monday and Tuesday, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Assistant Secretary for Health ADM Rachel Levine traveled to Atlanta to hear from community partners and public health leaders how to best address the surge of syphilis and its impact on pregnant people and babies.

*November 15- [Breaking Language Barriers: Biden-Harris Administration Announces New Plan to Address Language Barriers and Strengthen Language Access](#). *The HHS Language Access Plan is a critical step toward making health care and human services accessible to all; it represents a commitment to equal opportunities and improved health care for all Americans.* Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) took the next step in working to ensure greater access to the life-saving services that it provides for people with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) and people with disabilities. In releasing the HHS Language Access Plan, HHS joins agencies across the federal government in prioritizing communication in services to the

public. Today's action supports President Biden's Executive Orders to advance racial equity and support for underserved communities, which aims to improve access to benefits and services across the Administration, including for people with LEP.

*November 15- [Readout of HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra's Call with the Palestinian Authority's Minister of Health Dr. Mai al-Kaila](#). On Monday, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra spoke with Minister Mai al-Kaila, Minister of Health for the Palestinian Authority. Secretary Becerra offered his deepest condolences for the thousands of Palestinian lives lost in this conflict and reinforced the United States' ongoing commitment to urgently respond to the worsening humanitarian crisis in Gaza. Secretary Becerra also reiterated President Biden's call for the protection of civilians.

*November 15- [Biden-Harris Administration Proposes New Rule to Strengthen the Head Start Workforce, Increase Wages & Support Quality Programming](#). *When finalized, the new proposal would increase parity and raise Head Start teacher wages by more than \$10,000 on average.* Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) through the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) announced a new [proposed rule](#) to strengthen Head Start's ability to recruit and retain qualified staff, raise teacher wages, and provide consistent quality programming for the children and families they serve. The new proposed rule follows President Biden's April 2023 Executive Order, which directed HHS to develop strategies to encourage comparability of compensation and benefits between staff employed by Head Start grant recipients and elementary school teachers and make child care and Head Start more accessible for those families most in need.

*November 16- [HHS Establishes Secretary's Advisory Committee on Long COVID](#). *Committee will help advise on research and innovation in the whole-of-government response to the longer-term impacts of COVID-19, Inviting nominations.* Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announces the establishment of the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Long COVID and invites nominations for the Committee. This Committee is called for in the [National Research Action Plan on Long COVID - PDF](#), published in April of 2022 to make recommendations on research and innovation in the whole-of-government response to the longer-term impacts of COVID-19. This Committee will bring perspectives from outside the government to help inform action on Long COVID and associated conditions, with a focus on health equity.

*November 16- [HHS Celebrates National Rural Health Day](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) celebrates National Rural Health Day and recognizes the creativity and innovation of leaders across the country working to ensure access to high quality care for over 60 million Americans living in rural communities. National Rural Health Day is the third Thursday of every November and recognizes the efforts of rural providers, communities, organizations, state offices of rural health, and others dedicated to addressing the unique health care needs of rural America.

*November 16- [The Biden-Harris Administration Takes Action to Improve Health and Wellbeing by Addressing Social Determinants of Health](#). The White House and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), is releasing several resources to help support federal agencies, states, local and tribal governments to better coordinate health care, public health, and social services. Specifically, the White House is releasing the first ever [U.S. Playbook to Address Social Determinants of Health - PDF](#). To accompany this, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is releasing a [Call to Action to Address Health Related Social Needs, and a Medicaid and CHIP Health-Related Social Needs Framework](#). This builds on the Administration's work to advance health equity by acknowledging that peoples' social and economic conditions play an important role in their health and wellbeing.

*November 16- [Biden-Harris Administration Announces \\$74.4 Million in Funding Opportunities to Improve Behavioral Health](#). *Funding opportunities for grant programs that address behavioral health challenges in local communities by preventing substance use initiation, reducing the progression of substance use, and addressing other related concerns.* The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), announced notices of funding opportunities this week for grant programs that address behavioral health challenges in local communities by preventing substance use initiation, reducing the progression of substance use, and addressing other related concerns. The grant opportunities total about \$74.4 million and are part of the Biden-Harris Administration's priorities to beat the overdose epidemic and tackle the mental health crisis – two key pillars of the President's Unity Agenda for the nation.

Fact Sheets

*November 14- [HHS Factsheet: National Climate Assessment 5 Unveiled](#). *National Climate Assessment 5's Chapter on Health highlights climate change harms to human health.* The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), as part of the U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP), is pleased to announce the release of the Fifth National Climate Assessment (NCA5). Led by USGCRP and its 14 member agencies, NCA5 draws on the expertise of nearly 500 authors and 250 contributors from every state, as well as Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. NCA5 is the most comprehensive analysis of the state of climate change in the United States, providing authoritative, decision-relevant information on how people across the country are experiencing climate change, the risks we face now and will face in the future, and actions underway to reduce carbon pollution and build resilience.

*November 15- [HHS Notice of Benefit and Payment Parameters for 2025 Proposed Rule](#). In the HHS Notice of Benefit and Payment Parameters (Payment Notice) for 2025 proposed rule released today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) proposed standards for issuers and Marketplaces, as well as requirements for agents, brokers, web-brokers, direct enrollment entities, and assisters that help Marketplace consumers.

*November 15- [Fiscal Year 2023 Improper Payments Fact Sheet](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is committed to being a responsible steward of public funds and to promoting the sustainability of its programs for future generations. While CMS' improper payments reporting programs are designed to protect the integrity of CMS programs, not all improper payments are fraud or abuse. It is important to understand that improper payments are payments that do not meet CMS program requirements.

*November 15- [Disclosures of Ownership and Additional Disclosable Parties Information for Skilled Nursing Facilities and Nursing Facilities; Definitions of Private Equity Companies and Real Estate Investment Trusts for Medicare Providers and Suppliers](#). On November 15, 2023, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) placed on display at the [Federal Register](#) a final rule that will implement portions of section 6101 of the Affordable Care Act, requiring the disclosure of certain ownership, managerial, and other information regarding Medicare skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) and Medicaid nursing facilities, commonly known as nursing homes. It also defines the terms private equity company and real estate investment trust, about which information must be disclosed on Form CMS-855A, the Medicare enrollment application.

Blogs

*November 9- [Check out 2024 Marketplace coverage options – find, compare, & save!](#) Before you apply, check out 2024 coverage options in the Marketplace and get an idea if you qualify for savings. Answer a few quick questions to preview plans and prices before enrolling or renewing coverage for 2024 — you don't even have to log in!

*November 16- [Act now: Get Marketplace insurance for 2024](#). It's Open Enrollment! You have less than a month to enroll in or change plans for coverage that starts January 1.