



CMS Snapshot

July 13-20, 2023

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

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

News Releases

*July 13- [CMS Physician Payment Rule Advances Health Equity](#). *Proposed policies will expand behavioral health services, support the President’s Cancer Moonshot, promote innovation, and grow value-based care.* Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued the calendar year (CY) 2024 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) proposed rule to announce rate updates, advance health equity, and expand access to critical medical services — including behavioral health care and certain oral health services. Notably, the proposed rule supports the Biden-Harris Administration’s Cancer Moonshot mission to accelerate the fight against cancer.

*July 13- [CDC to Launch “Bridge Access Program” in Fall 2023 to Provide Free COVID-19 Vaccines and Treatments to Uninsured and Underinsured Adults](#). To help ensure that millions of uninsured and underinsured American adults continue to have access to no-cost COVID-19 vaccinations, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is launching the [Bridge Access Program for COVID-19 Vaccines](#) this fall.

*July 13- [CMS Administrator Brooks-LaSure Letter to Payors Regarding Coverage of COVID-19 Vaccines Post Commercialization](#). To Medicare Plans, Private Insurance Plans, and State Medicaid and CHIP Programs: Thank you for your continued efforts to address the effects of COVID-19, even after the end of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) declared under the Public Health Service Act. As we look toward efforts to provide updated COVID-19 vaccines this fall, we know you may have questions about the shift away from U.S. Government purchasing of vaccines to a more traditional commercial market.

*July 14- [CMS Roundup \(July 14, 2023\)](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) provides an at-a-glance summary of news from around the agency.

*July 16- [Statement by HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra Celebrating the One-Year Anniversary of the Launch of 988](#). “Today we celebrate the one-year anniversary of the launch of 988, the three-digit Suicide & Crisis Lifeline, where Americans can connect with trained counselors who will listen and offer real help in times of crisis.”

*July 18- [Readout: White House and HHS Host Inflation Reduction Act Roundtable with National Pharmacy Leaders](#). *White House and HHS host discussion on how pharmacies can work together to build on the progress made under President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act to further bring down the cost of prescription drugs and educate consumers about the benefits of the law.* On Tuesday, July 18, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra, Director of the Domestic Policy Council of the United States Neera Tanden, and Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Chiquita Brooks-LaSure held a roundtable at the White House with pharmacy chain and association leaders to discuss how pharmacies can work together with the Biden-Harris Administration to educate consumers about the new Medicare prescription drug benefits under the Inflation Reduction Act. This roundtable builds on a meeting Secretary Becerra held with pharmacy leaders in March 2022.

*July 19- [HHS Distributes \\$47.8 Million in Grant Funding for Programs Expanding Access to Medications for Opioid Use Disorder, Addressing Other Facets of Overdose and Substance Use](#). The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through its Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), is announcing awards in five grant programs devoted to combating multiple facets of substance misuse and the nation's overdose epidemic. The grant awards total up to \$47.8 million.

*July 20- [CMS Proposes Policies to Expand Behavioral Health Access and Further Efforts to Increase Hospital Price Transparency](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is proposing to expand access to behavioral health services through coverage of intensive outpatient services — an intermediate level of behavioral health care. To support practices to help curtail shortages of essential medicines, CMS is seeking comment in this rule on potential payment adjustments to hospitals for the additional costs of establishing and maintaining a buffer stock of essential medicines.

*July 20- [CMS Approves California & Kentucky Requests to Provide Essential Behavioral Health Services Through Mobile Crisis Intervention Teams](#). *Six states have adopted this option under President Biden's American Rescue Plan to provide individuals experiencing mental health or substance use disorder crises with community-based interventions and stabilization.* The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) today approved proposals from California and Kentucky for community-based mobile crisis intervention teams to provide Medicaid crisis services. This marks six states that have expanded access to community-based mental health and substance use crisis care through President Biden's American Rescue Plan. California and Kentucky will be able to provide Medicaid services through mobile crisis teams by connecting eligible individuals in crisis to a behavioral health provider 24 hours per day, 365 days a year.

*July 20- [HHS Office for Civil Rights and the Federal Trade Commission Warn Hospital Systems and Telehealth Providers about Privacy and Security Risks from Online Tracking Technologies](#). *Letters highlight concerns about use of online tracking technologies such as Google Analytics and Meta Pixel in violation of HIPAA.* The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office for Civil Rights (OCR) and the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) are cautioning hospitals

and telehealth providers about the privacy and security risks related to the use of online tracking technologies that may be integrated into their websites or mobile apps that may be impermissibly disclosing consumers' sensitive personal health data to third parties. Tracking technologies are used to collect and analyze information about how users interact with websites or mobile apps.

*July 20- [HRSA'S Rural Communities Opioid Response Program Team Wins 2023 Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medals People's Choice Award](#). The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) is proud to announce that today the team of Megan Meacham, Allison Hutchings, and Sarah O'Donnell from the HRSA Federal Office of Rural Health Policy was named the winner of the 2023 Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medals People's Choice Award by the Partnership for Public Service. This team established the HRSA Rural Communities Opioid Response Program (RCORP), which has helped millions of people in rural communities across the country receive opioid use disorder prevention, treatment, and recovery support services.

Fact Sheets

*July 13- [CY 2024 Medicare Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System and Ambulatory Surgical Center Payment System Proposed Rule \(CMS 1786-P\)](#). On July 13, 2023, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) proposed Medicare payment rates for hospital outpatient and Ambulatory Surgical Center (ASC) services. The Calendar Year (CY) 2024 Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS) and ASC Payment System Proposed Rule is published annually and will have a 60-day comment period, which will end on September 11, 2023. The final rule will be issued in early November.

*July 13- [CY 2024 Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System \(OPPS\) Policy Changes: Hospital Price Transparency Proposals \(CMS-1786-P\)](#). Hospital price transparency lays the foundation for a patient-driven health care system by making hospital standard charges' data available to the public and supports President Biden's Executive Order on Promoting Competition. On July 13, 2023, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) proposed changes to the hospital price transparency regulations.

*July 13- [Calendar Year \(CY\) 2024 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Proposed Rule](#). On July 13, 2023, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a proposed rule that announces and solicits public comments on proposed policy changes for Medicare payments under the Physician Fee Schedule (PFS), and other Medicare Part B issues, effective on or after January 1, 2024.

*July 13- [Calendar Year \(CY\) 2024 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Proposed Rule — Medicare Shared Savings Program Proposals](#). On July 13, 2023, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued the calendar year (CY) 2024 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (PFS)

proposed rule that includes proposed changes to the Medicare Shared Savings Program (Shared Savings Program) to further advance CMS' overall value-based care strategy of growth, alignment, and equity and to respond to concerns raised by accountable care organizations (ACOs) and other interested parties.

Blog

*July 14- [Important New Changes to Improve Access to Behavioral Health in Medicare](#); *Meena Seshamani, MD, PhD, and Douglas Jacobs, MD, MPH*. As we emerge from the COVID-19 public health emergency, it is abundantly clear that our nation must improve access to effective mental health and substance use disorder (collectively called “behavioral health”) treatment and care. For older Americans and individuals with disabilities enrolled in Medicare, many individuals have felt the effects of worsening depression and anxiety or have struggled with the use of substances like opioids or alcohol. And, as doctors, we have seen first-hand how behavioral health treatment can improve the health and well-being of our patients.