



CMS Snapshot June 8-15, 2023

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, June 8 through 2pm Thursday, June 15, 2023

News Releases-

*June 8- [CMS Announces Multi-State Initiative to Strengthen Primary Care](#). *New Model Aims to Enhance Access and Quality of Primary Care, Improve Health System.* Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced a new primary care model – the Making Care Primary (MCP) Model – that will be tested under the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation in eight states. Access to high-quality primary care is associated with better health outcomes and equity for people and communities.

*June 8- [HHS Releases First-Ever STI Federal Implementation Plan](#). *The new plan outlines federal actions to reduce the burden of sexually transmitted infections in the United States through 2025.* Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released the [STI Federal Implementation Plan](#) to detail how various agencies and departments across the federal government are taking a comprehensive approach to making meaningful and substantive progress in improving public health. This new plan builds on other key HHS actions to protect the public's health by addressing the growing threat of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in America.

*June 9- [Inflation Reduction Act Continues to Lower Out-of-Pocket Prescription Drug Costs for Drugs with Price Increases Above Inflation](#). *HHS announces savings for some people with Medicare on 43 Part B prescription drugs.* A continuing key priority of the Biden-Harris Administration is lowering prescription drug costs. Today, the Department of Health and Human Services, through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), announced the list of 43 prescription drugs for which Part B beneficiary coinsurances may be lower between July 1 – September 30, 2023. Some people with Medicare who take these drugs may save between \$1 and \$149 per average dose starting July 1, depending on their individual coverage.

*June 9- [HHS Announces New \\$15 Million Loan Repayment Program to Strengthen the Pediatric Health Care Workforce](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), launched the new Pediatric Specialty Loan Repayment Program, a \$15 million investment to recruit and retain clinicians who provide health care to children and adolescents.

*June 12- [HHS Takes Additional Action to Keep People Covered as States Resume Medicaid, CHIP Renewals](#). *In a letter to the nation's governors, Secretary Becerra announces new flexibilities HHS is offering states to minimize avoidable coverage losses among children and families.* Today, in support of the Biden-Harris Administration's commitment to expanding access to high-quality, affordable health care coverage, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced new flexibilities to help keep Americans covered as states resume Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) renewals. The new flexibilities were announced in a [letter Secretary Becerra sent to the nation's governors](#) urging them to adopt all available flexibilities to minimize avoidable coverage losses among children and families.

*June 12- [HHS and the American Society of Nephrology Announce Winners of \\$9.2 Million Artificial Kidney Prize Phase 2 at KidneyX Summit](#). Today, the Kidney Innovation Accelerator (KidneyX), a public private partnership between the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the American Society of Nephrology (ASN) announced the eight winners of the Artificial Kidney Prize Phase 2 at the KidneyX Summit in Washington, DC. The competition recognized participants' innovative approaches to developing a bioartificial kidney and was divided into two tracks with two Track 1 participants each receiving \$1,600,000, and six Track 2 participants each receiving \$1,000,000.

*June 12- [Letter to U.S. Governors from HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra on Medicaid Redeterminations](#). Dear Governor: I am writing to follow up on my March 2023 letter regarding states' efforts to return to pre-COVID-19 pandemic Medicaid operations. As full Medicaid renewals begin, it is critically important to ensure that individuals do not lose coverage due solely to administrative processes. I urge you to adopt all options that we have offered to help eligible individuals and families maintain their health coverage during this process and leverage all state partners to support individuals and families to complete renewal forms.

*June 13- [Biden-Harris Administration Announces New York's Medicaid and CHIP Postpartum Coverage Expansion; 35 States & D.C. Now Offer Full Year of Coverage After Pregnancy](#). *Thanks to the Biden-Harris Administration's efforts to strengthen maternal health, an estimated 509,000 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 New York'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.

*June 14- [CMS Office of the Actuary Releases 2022-2031 National Health Expenditure Projections](#). *Average annual growth in national health spending over the next decade projected to be 5.4%.* The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) Office of the Actuary released projections of National Health Expenditures (NHE) and health insurance enrollment for the

years 2022-2031. The report contains expected impacts from the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), including that people with Medicare prescription drug coverage (Part D) are projected to experience lower out-of-pocket spending on prescription drugs for 2024 and beyond as several provisions from the law begin to take effect.

*June 14- [HHS Announces Nearly \\$9 Million to Increase the Number of Substance Use Disorder Clinicians in Underserved Communities](#). *Awards will increase the number of clinicians trained to provide integrated mental health and substance use disorder services.* Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), is announcing awards of nearly \$9 million to strengthen and expand the mental health and substance use workforce in underserved and rural communities. This funding will provide support to 20 grantees to train health care providers to provide care for individuals in need of mental health and substance use services.

*June 15- [Snooping in Medical Records by Hospital Security Guards Leads to \\$240,000 HIPAA Settlement](#). *Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital in Washington settles breach that affected 419 people.* Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office for Civil Rights (OCR) announced a settlement with Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital, a not-for-profit community hospital located in Yakima, Washington resolving an investigation under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA). OCR investigated allegations that several security guards from Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital impermissibly accessed the medical records of 419 individuals. HIPAA is a federal law that protects the privacy and security of protected health information. The HIPAA Privacy, Security, and Breach Notification Rules apply to most health care organizations and set the requirements that HIPAA-regulated entities must follow to protect the privacy and security of health information.

*June 15- [ACL Proposes Update to Older Americans Act Program Regulations](#). *Proposed rule represents first significant update for most programs since 1988.* The U.S. Administration for Community Living [is seeking input](#) on proposed updates to the regulations for its Older Americans Act (OAA) programs. The proposed rule is the first substantial update to most OAA program regulations in 35 years.

*June 15- [HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra Statement on Supreme Court Decision in Haaland v. Brackeen](#). Today, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra issued the following statement following the Supreme Court's 7-2 decision in Haaland v. Brackeen.

Fact Sheets-

*June 12- [FACT SHEET: Biden-Harris Administration Announces New Tools to Lower Prescription Drug Costs for Low-Income Seniors and People with Disabilities](#). *Builds on Benefit Expansions in President Biden's Lower Cost Prescription Drug Law.* Today, the Biden-Harris Administration is announcing new tools to lower prescription drug costs for low-income people with Medicare

through the Extra Help program, which provides eligible seniors and disabled people with help paying for their Medicare Part D premiums and cost-sharing. These resources complement forthcoming expansions in Extra Help benefits and will ensure more people eligible for benefits are enrolled in this vital program.

Blogs-

*June 8- [OCIO Growing Leaders](#). By: [Jennifer Wendel](#), Deputy Chief Information Officer. *Summary: OCIO grows its leaders through the Harvard Kennedy School's Senior Executive Fellows and Federal Executive Institute's leadership courses.* The HHS Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) is committed to growing its leaders through professional development.

*June 8- [How We Co-Designed the Newborn Supply Kit with Mothers](#). By: [Caryn Marks](#), Director of Strategic Partnerships, Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. *Summary: Learn how an interagency team co-designed the newborn supply kit with parents and community leaders to meet families' immediate needs after having a baby.* In 2021, President Biden signed [Executive Order 14508](#) to improve the customer experience of accessing and utilizing federal services and benefits during important life stages, including when families welcome a new child. To achieve that goal, an interagency team of designers and policy experts led by U.S. Digital Service, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and other federal partners conducted four months of research to more deeply understand the pain points parents face and develop solutions.

*June 9- [The CMS Innovation Center's Strategy to Support High-quality Primary Care](#). Purva Rawal, Jacob Quinton, Dora Hughes, and Liz Fowler. *Introduction-Primary care in the United States is in urgent need of investment and support following [decades of inadequate payments](#), [increasingly complex delivery of care](#), and growing [administrative burden](#) – all of which have been [exacerbated by the pandemic](#). Access to primary care is associated with improved patient outcomes, increased equity, and lower mortality/higher life expectancy at similar or lower total costs. [Despite these well-documented benefits](#), primary care spending remains low as a proportion of total health care spending, gaps in payment between primary care and specialist care persist, and fewer people report a regular source of primary care, [particularly among underserved populations](#).*

*June 10- [Understand your options if you lose Medicaid or CHIP](#). For the past few years, states had to continue your coverage in Medicaid (and in some cases the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)), even if your income or other factors changed that would typically make you ineligible.