



CMS Snapshot

March 30 – April 6, 2023

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, March 23 through 2pm Thursday, April 6, 2023

News Releases

*March 29 - [Increased Use of Telehealth Services and Medications for Opioid Use Disorder During the COVID-19 Pandemic Associated with Reduced Risk for Fatal Overdose](#). *Study findings support the continuation of providing telehealth services for opioid use disorder and its related care.* The expanded availability of opioid use disorder-related telehealth services and medications during the COVID-19 pandemic was associated with a lowered likelihood of fatal drug overdose among Medicare beneficiaries, according to a new study.

*March 31- [HHS Updates 2024 Medicare Advantage Program and Part D Payment Policies](#). Updated Medicare Advantage and Part D policies ensure the overall Medicare program remains strong and stable for the 65 million beneficiaries today and future generations to come, payments to private insurance companies are accurate, and taxpayer dollars are well spent. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), released the Calendar Year (CY) 2024 Medicare Advantage (MA) and Part D Rate Announcement that finalized payment policies for these programs.

*March 31- [New HHS Report Released on Transgender Day of Visibility Offers Updated, Evidence-Based Roadmap for Supporting and Affirming LGBTQI+ Youth](#). A new report by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) provides a comprehensive overview of the scientific research and consensus that LGBTQI+ youth are resilient and can thrive when they are supported and affirmed, but that pervasive discrimination, rejection, and bullying of LGBTQI+ youth has led to a nationwide mental health crisis.

*March 31 - [HHS Awards Start-Up Funds for Community-Based Health Care Providers to Develop Programs to Train Medical and Dental Residents in Community Settings](#). *HRSA is awarding nearly \$23 million to 46 grantees to plan and develop new Teaching Health Center primary care residency training programs in community-based settings. HRSA Administrator Johnson also visited a grantee today in Central New Jersey with Congressman Frank Pallone to*

For more information, please email partnership@cms.hhs.gov

discuss today's awards. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), awarded nearly \$23 million to 46 grantees to plan and develop Teaching Health Center residency programs in community-based settings. While the Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education (THCGME) Program has existed for over a decade, the Biden-Harris Administration is the first to invest in the startup costs of planning and developing new Teaching Health Center primary care residency programs. The President's FY 2024 budget request - PDF also seeks to expand this successful program.

*March 31- [Statements from HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra, Assistant Secretary for Health Admiral Rachel Levine, and HHS Leaders on Trans Day of Visibility](#). *Earlier today, HHS raised a transgender pride flag outside its headquarters building for the second year in a row. HHS became the first cabinet-level agency to raise the flag outside of its headquarters building last year.* The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra, alongside Assistant Secretary for Health Admiral Rachel Levine and leaders across HHS released the statements below in celebration of International Transgender Day of Visibility.

*April 3- [HHS Releases National Cancer Plan](#). *Plan Will Help Advance the President and First Lady's Cancer Moonshot.* The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released a [National Cancer Plan](#), developed by the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) National Cancer Institute (NCI). The plan provides a framework for everyone—across the federal government and all of society—to collaborate in ending cancer as we know it, and to realize the vision laid out by President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden's Cancer Moonshot.

*April 5- [HHS Reminds States of Legal Obligations to Federal Civil Rights Protections as States Transition from Medicaid Continuous Coverage Changes as the Public Health Emergency Ends](#). *Letter underscores need for meaningful language access for individuals with limited English proficiency and effective communication for individuals with disabilities during states' unwinding of Medicaid Continuous Enrollment Condition.* The U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Office for Civil Rights (OCR) reminded states of their obligations under federal civil rights laws as the Public Health Emergency for COVID-19 and the continuous Medicaid coverage comes to an end, and states restart Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) eligibility reviews. The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) allowed for continuous Medicaid and CHIP coverage during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency.

*April 5- [Statement from HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra on National Minority Health Month](#). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra released the following statement in honor of National Minority Health Month: "Every April, the HHS Office of Minority Health (OMH) observes National Minority Health Month to highlight the importance of enhancing the health and wellbeing of racial and ethnic communities and reducing health disparities. This year we are focusing on advancing health equity by reinforcing to the health care community the importance of providing culturally and linguistically competent health care

For more information, please email partnership@cms.hhs.gov

services, information, and resources to patients, so they are empowered to create healthier outcomes for themselves and their loved ones.

*April 5- [HHS Finalizes Rule to Strengthen Medicare, Improve Access to Affordable Prescription Drug Coverage, and Hold Private Insurance Companies Accountable to Delivering Quality Health Care for America's Seniors and People with Disabilities](#). *Thanks to President Biden's new law to lower prescription drug costs, the final rule will also improve access to affordable prescription drug coverage for an estimated 300,000 low-income individuals.* The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), is finalizing a rule to put people with Medicare first and put strong protections in place so that Medicare Advantage (MA) works for them. This final rule will strengthen Medicare Advantage and hold health insurance companies to higher standards for America's seniors and people with disabilities by cracking down on misleading marketing schemes by Medicare Advantage plans, Part D plans and their downstream entities; removing barriers to care created by complex coverage criteria and utilization management; and expanding access to behavioral health care.

Blog

*April 5- [It's Time to Act! On-Time Immunization is Critical for All Adolescents](#) By: [Rachel Levine, M.D.](#), Assistant Secretary for Health (ASH). **Summary:** *Adolescent Immunization Action Week give us an opportunity to spring into action to protect the health of all pre-teens and teenagers.* As a pediatrician and the Assistant Secretary for Health, I advocate every day to keep children healthy. Vaccination is an amazing tool to do just that. Immunization also helps us improve the well-being of children. Ensuring adolescents receive on-time vaccination is critical so they do not miss out on important activities. This can help to serve their social needs and their mental health.

*April 6- [The time to file taxes is almost over. Here's what to know](#). The last day to file your 2022 federal income taxes is **April 18, 2023**. If anyone in your household had Marketplace health coverage in 2022, you'll use [Form 1095-A, Health Insurance Marketplace® Statement](#) to file. (If you didn't get Form 1095-A online or by mail, or if the information on it's wrong, [contact the Marketplace Call Center](#).)

For more information, please email partnership@cms.hhs.gov