



CMS Snapshot

January 26-February 2, 2023

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, January 26 through 2pm Thursday, February 2, 2023

News Releases

*January 26- [HHS Approves California's Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Plan \(CHIP\) Demonstration Authority to Support Care for Justice-Involved People](#). *First-of-its-kind initiative will help people get the behavioral health care they need as they leave incarceration.* Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), approved a first-of-its-kind section 1115 demonstration amendment in California which will provide a set of critical pre-release services and improve access to critically needed care for people returning home from jails and prisons.

*January 26- [CMS Roundup \(January 26, 2023\)](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is providing an at-a-glance summary of news from around the agency.

*January 30- [Biden-Harris Administration Proposes New Rules to Expand Access to Birth Control Coverage Under the Affordable Care Act](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) and the Departments of Labor and the Treasury (Departments) proposed a rule to strengthen access to birth control coverage under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Under the ACA, most plans are required to offer coverage of birth control with no out-of-pocket cost. To date, millions of women have benefited from this coverage. Today's rule proposes to expand and strengthen access to this coverage so that all women who need or want birth control are able to obtain it. The action is the latest effort by the Biden-Harris Administration to bolster access to birth control at no cost.

*January 30- [CMS Issues Final Rule to Protect Medicare, Strengthen Medicare Advantage, and Hold Insurers Accountable](#). *Risk Adjustment Data Validation (RADV) final rule strengthens Medicare Advantage and restores payment oversight program.* Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), finalized the policies for the Medicare Advantage (MA) Risk Adjustment Data Validation (RADV) program, which is CMS's primary audit and oversight tool of MA program payments. Under this program, CMS identifies improper risk adjustment payments made to Medicare

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Advantage Organizations (MAOs) in instances where medical diagnoses submitted for payment were not supported in the beneficiary's medical record.

*February 1- [CMS Releases 2024 Advance Notice with Proposed Payment Updates for the Medicare Advantage and Part D Prescription Drug Programs](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released the Calendar Year (CY) 2024 Advance Notice for the Medicare Advantage (MA) and Part D Prescription Drug Programs that would update payment policies for these programs. The Advance Notice builds on a [proposed rule](#) that CMS released in December 2022 that would, if finalized, strengthen beneficiary protections for the millions of people who rely on Medicare Advantage and Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage.

*February 1- [Statement from HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra on Black History Month](#). Today, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra released the following statement in honor of Black History Month.

*February 2- [HHS Launches the First National Early Care and Education Workforce Center](#). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), is announcing the launch of the new National Early Care and Education Workforce Center (the ECE Workforce Center). The ECE Workforce Center is the result of a \$30 million investment to support research and technical assistance for states, communities, territories, and Tribal Nations to improve the recruitment and retention of a diverse and qualified workforce across early care and education programs.

*February 2- [LymeX Diagnostics Prize Launches Phase 2 with a Virtual Accelerator](#). *Ten Phase 1 winning teams joined the 2023 LymeX Diagnostics Prize Virtual Accelerator for mentorship and resources to nurture the development of new Lyme disease diagnostics towards market.* The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Steven & Alexandra Cohen Foundation (the Foundation) have launched Phase 2 of the [LymeX Diagnostics Prize](#) , inviting the [ten Phase 1 winners](#) to participate in a virtual accelerator. Through September 2023, the virtual accelerator cohort will refine their concepts for detecting active Lyme disease infections in people. The goal of the multiphase LymeX Diagnostic Prize (LymeX) competition is to nurture the development of diagnostics toward Food and Drug Administration review.

*February 2- [On First Anniversary of the President's Reignited Cancer Moonshot, the Biden-Harris Administration Awards Nearly \\$11 Million to Address Disparities in Cancer Screening and Follow-Up Care](#). *The Health Resources and Services Administration doubles its investment in a first-of-its-kind initiative to accelerate access to cancer screening and connection to follow-up treatment, including patient navigation support services, in underserved communities.* Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), awarded nearly \$11 million to 22 HRSA-funded health centers to improve access to life-saving cancer screenings and early detection services for underserved communities. These awards double support for an initiative launched last year by the Biden-

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Harris Administration through which HRSA-funded health centers are working to close the cancer screening gap and decrease the impact of preventable cancers.

Fact Sheets

*January 30- [Medicare Advantage Risk Adjustment Data Validation Final Rule \(CMS-4185-F2\) Fact Sheet](#). In a final rule released today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) finalized technical details regarding the Medicare Advantage (MA) Risk Adjustment Data Validation (RADV) program that CMS uses to recover improper risk adjustment payments made to Medicare Advantage (MA) plans. The RADV final rule will help CMS to protect the MA program (also known as “Medicare Part C”) by addressing instances where Medicare paid Medicare Advantage Organizations (MAOs) more than they otherwise should have received because the medical diagnoses submitted for risk adjustment payment were not supported in the beneficiary’s medical record.

*January 30- [Coverage of Certain Preventive Services Under the Affordable Care Act: Proposed Rules](#). On January 30, 2023, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the Department of Labor, and the Department of the Treasury (collectively, the Departments) released proposed rules with comment period entitled “Coverage of Certain Preventive Services Under the Affordable Care Act.” These proposed rules would amend regulations regarding coverage of certain preventive services under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), which, consistent with guidelines supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), generally require non-grandfathered group health plans and non-grandfathered group or individual health insurance coverage to cover certain contraceptive services without cost sharing.

*February 1- [2024 Medicare Advantage and Part D Advance Notice Fact Sheet](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released the Calendar Year (CY) 2024 Advance Notice of Methodological Changes for Medicare Advantage (MA) Capitation Rates and Part C and Part D Payment Policies (the Advance Notice). CMS will accept comments on the CY 2024 Advance Notice through Friday, March 3, 2023. CMS will carefully consider timely comments received before publishing the final Rate Announcement by April 3, 2023.

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