



## CMS Snapshot

### March 23-30, 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, March 30, 2023

#### News Releases

\*March 23- [HHS Office for Civil Rights and U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Michigan Resolve Federal Civil Rights Complaint Regarding a Doctor's Alleged Failure to Provide a Sign Language Interpreter](#). *Action resolves allegations by a patient who is deaf, alleging that a physician in Dearborn, Michigan failed to provide effective communication when requested.* The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office for Civil Rights (OCR), in partnership with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Michigan (DOJ), entered into an agreement with Dearborn Obstetrics and Gynecology, P.C. (Dearborn OBGYN), to resolve an alleged federal civil rights violation. OCR received a complaint alleging that Dearborn OBGYN refused repeated requests to provide the complainant with a sign language interpreter for a preoperative appointment.

\*March 24- [CMS Roundup \(Mar. 24, 2023\)](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is providing an at-a-glance summary of news from around the agency.

\*March 24- [HHS Announces Over \\$120 Million In Funding Opportunity for Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics Providing Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Care Across the Country](#). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), announced two funding opportunities for Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) expansion, totaling \$123.6 million. The [CCBHC Planning, Development, and Implementation \(CCBHC-PDI\) grant](#) aims to assist clinics to establish and implement new CCBHC programs, and the [CCBHC Improvement and Advancement \(CCBHC-IA\) grant](#) seeks to enhance and support existing CCBHCs that currently meet the CCBHC Certification Criteria. Today's announcement builds on the progress the Biden-Harris Administration has made in tackling the country's mental health crisis and beating the opioid epidemic by expanding access to mental health and substance use services – key priorities outlined in President Biden's Unity Agenda.

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\*March 24- [US Departments of Labor and Health and Human Services announce additional steps to tackle child labor violations, strengthening coordination](#). *The new agreement further increases coordination and information sharing to help prevent and address child labor violations.* The U.S. Departments of Labor and Health and Human Services announced today a [Memorandum of Agreement - PDF](#) to advance ongoing efforts to address child labor exploitation. The Labor Department's Wage and Hour Division and the Health and Human Services Department's Administration for Children and Families signed the agreement to formalize the partnership between the agencies, and outline procedures to be followed by both agencies in working together to address the need for deeper information sharing, coordination, training, and education. The purpose of this MOA is to maximize the enforcement of the child labor protections of the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), to enhance the ability to protect children from exploitation, and to connect individuals to needed benefits and services. It represents unprecedented steps to maximize collaboration between the two agencies to prevent and address illegal child labor.

\*March 27- [HHS Provides SAMHSA Emergency Response Grants to Support Community Wellness, Resilience Following Recent East Palestine Train Derailment, Chemical Spill](#). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), is providing funding from the SAMHSA Emergency Response Grants (SERG) to the state of Ohio to support community wellness and resilience, following the Norfolk Southern freight train derailment and related chemical spill in East Palestine, Ohio, in February.

\*March 28- [CMS Announces Resources and Flexibilities to Assist with the Public Health Emergency in the State of Mississippi Due to Recent Storms](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services announced today additional resources and flexibilities available in response to the recent severe storms in Mississippi. CMS is working closely with Mississippi to put these flexibilities in place to ensure those affected by this natural disaster have access to the care they need – when they need it most.

\*March 28- [HHS and EPA Encourage States to Utilize Federal Resources for Lead Detection and Mitigation in Early Care and Education Settings](#). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a [joint letter](#) to governors to encourage state and local governments to use federal funding to take actions to reduce and remove lead in drinking water in early care and education settings, like elementary schools and child care facilities.

\*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

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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 29- [The Biden-Harris Administration Takes Critical Action to Make Naloxone More Accessible and Prevent Fatal Overdoses from Opioids Like Fentanyl](#). Today, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the first nonprescription, “over-the-counter” (OTC) naloxone nasal spray, Narcan. Naloxone – a medicine that can reverse an opioid-related overdose – has been shown to be a critical tool to prevent fatal overdoses, connect more people to treatment for substance use disorder, and save lives. This action by the Biden-Harris administration to make this naloxone product available without a prescription will pave the way for the life-saving medication to be sold directly to consumers in places like drug stores, convenience stores, grocery stores and gas stations, as well as online.

## Blog

\*March 28- [Commemorating Women’s History Month – March 2023](#) By: [Melanie Fontes Rainer](#), Director for Office for Civil Rights (OCR); Summary: *This March, OCR commemorates the many achievements and contributions that millions of women have provided to society.* This March we commemorate the many achievements and contributions that millions of women have provided to society. Women make up 50.5% of the U.S. population, and despite this there are still significant disparities experienced across how we access the healthcare system, the work force, and other places across our world.

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