



CMS Snapshot

March 5-12, 2020

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, March 5 through 2pm Thursday, March 12, 2020.

News Releases

*March 5- [CMS Develops Additional Code for Coronavirus Lab Tests](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) took additional actions to ensure America's patients, healthcare facilities and clinical laboratories are prepared to respond to the 2019-Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19).

*March 6- [HHS Solicits Proposals for Development of Medical Products for Novel Coronavirus](#). As part of the government-wide effort to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in U.S. communities, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has updated a broad agency announcement (BAA) to focus specifically on products to diagnose, prevent or treat coronavirus infections.

*March 6- [COVID-19 Response News Alert: CMS Issues Frequently Asked Questions to Assist Medicare Providers](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued [frequently asked questions and answers \(FAQs\)](#) for healthcare providers regarding Medicare payment for laboratory tests and other services related to the 2019-Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). The agency is receiving questions from providers and created this document to be transparent and share answers to some of the most common questions.

*March 8- [Notification – HHS and State of California to Support Passengers On The Grand Princess Cruise Ship](#). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services will work with state and local partners in California to support passengers returning to the United States on the Grand Princess cruise ship. The ship will dock temporarily in a non-passenger port in San Francisco Bay.

*March 9- [HHS Finalizes Historic Rules to Provide Patients More Control of Their Health Data](#). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) today finalized two transformative rules that will give patients unprecedented safe, secure access to their health data. Interoperability has been pursued by multiple administrations and numerous laws, and today,

these rules finally deliver on giving patients true access to their healthcare data to make informed healthcare decisions and better manage their care.

*March 9- [HHS Supports Development of First High-Throughput COVID-19 Diagnostic Test](#). A diagnostic test for coronavirus disease 2019 ([COVID-19](#)) - designed for use in a diagnostic system that can process up to 1,000 tests in 24 hours - will receive advanced development support from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR).

*March 9- [Telehealth Benefits in Medicare are a Lifeline for Patients During Coronavirus Outbreak](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a fact sheet with additional guidance for healthcare providers and patients about the telehealth benefits in the agency's Medicare program. The fact sheet is part of a broader effort by CMS and the White House Task Force to ensure that all Americans – particularly those at high-risk of complications from the COVID-19 virus – are aware of easy-to-use, accessible benefits that can help keep them healthy while helping to contain the community spread of this disease.

*March 9- [CMS Issues Clear, Actionable Guidance to Providers about COVID-19 Virus](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is taking action to protect the health and safety of our nation's patients and providers in the wake of the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

*March 9- [CMS Issues Call to Action for Hospital Emergency Departments to Screen Patients for Coronavirus](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced actions to ensure the United States' 5,000 Medicare-participating hospitals continue to implement infection control procedures they are required to maintain under federal regulations, meeting their obligations to care for patients in the face of the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19).

*March 10- [CMS Sends More Detailed Guidance to Providers about COVID-19](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is supplementing its guidance to home health agencies and dialysis facilities to protect the health and safety of our nation's patients and providers in response to the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

*March 10- [COVID-19 Response News Alert: CMS Issues Frequently Asked Questions on Guidance to State Survey Agencies Suspending Non-Emergency Survey Inspections](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) to ensure surveyors with State Survey Agencies and accrediting organizations charged with inspecting nursing homes and other health care facilities, understand the changes in guidance issued on March 4 suspending non-emergency survey inspections, allowing them to focus on the most current serious health and safety threats, like infectious diseases and abuse.

*March 10- [CMS Issues Guidance to help Medicare Advantage and Part D Plans Respond to COVID-19](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is taking further action to ensure patients have access to the critical healthcare services they need in the wake of the

2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. Today, following a meeting with President Trump and Vice President Pence, many leading insurance companies and their industry associations announced they will be treating COVID-19 diagnostic tests as covered benefits and will be waiving cost sharing that would otherwise apply to the test.

*March 10- [COVID-19 Response News Alert: CMS Issues Key Protective Mask Guidance for Healthcare Workers](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) took additional action to ensure America's healthcare workers are prepared to fight the spread of Novel Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19). Specifically, CMS sent a [memorandum](#) to State Survey Agencies (SAs), which are responsible for inspecting nursing homes and other healthcare facilities serving Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries.

*March 11- [CDC to Award Over \\$560 Million to State & Local Jurisdictions in Support of COVID-19 Response](#). The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is announcing another upcoming action by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to provide resources to state and local jurisdictions in support of our nation's response to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

*March 11- [CMS Launches Groundbreaking Model to Lower Out of Pocket Expenses for Insulin](#). Today, under President Trump's leadership, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced the Part D Senior Savings Model, a voluntary model that enables participating Part D enhanced plans to lower Medicare beneficiaries' out-of-pocket costs for insulin to a maximum \$35 copay per thirty-day supply throughout the benefit year.

*March 12- [Secretary Azar's Statement on President Trump's Oval Office Address](#). HHS Secretary Alex Azar issued the following statement on President Trump's Oval Office address regarding [the COVID-19 outbreak](#).

*March 12- [CMS Publishes First Set of COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\) for State Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program \(CHIP\) Agencies](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is posting Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) to the Medicaid.gov website to aid state Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) agencies in their response to the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. CMS is taking this action in its continuing efforts to protect the health and safety of providers and patients, including those who are covered by Medicaid and CHIP.

Fact Sheets

*March 9- [Interoperability and Patient Access Fact Sheet](#). The Interoperability and Patient Access final rule (CMS-9115-F) delivers on the Administration's promise to put patients first, giving them access to their health information when they need it most and in a way they can best use it.

*March 11- [Part D Senior Savings Model](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is announcing a new Model, the Part D Senior Savings Model (or the “Model”), and the corresponding Request for Application (RFA) process for participation from eligible pharmaceutical manufacturers and Part D sponsors in all states and territories.

Blogs

*March 6- [3 things to know about coronavirus disease and your Marketplace coverage](#). You may be hearing about the coronavirus (officially called 2019-novel coronavirus or COVID-19) in the news. Currently, the rules in your Marketplace health plan for treatment for COVID-19, remain the same as for the treatment of any other viral infection. Check with your health insurance company for their specific benefits and coverage policy. Here are some other things to know about how your Marketplace health plan works when it comes to coronavirus.

*March 9- [Care for your kidneys- Medicare can help](#). There’s never “bean” a better time to care for your kidneys’ health. Did you know that approximately 90% of people with kidney disease don’t know they have it? If it’s caught early enough, kidney disease can be slowed or stopped, so it’s important to ask your doctor if you have concerns. And, if you’ve already been diagnosed with kidney disease, Medicare is here to help you care for your kidneys.

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