



CMS Snapshot

May 21-28, 2020

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, May 21 through 2pm Thursday, May 28, 2020.

News Releases

*May 22- [Trump Administration Announces Changes to Medicare Advantage and Part D to Provide Better Coverage and Increase Access for Medicare Beneficiaries](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services today finalized requirements that will increase access to telehealth for seniors in Medicare Advantage (MA) plans, expand the types of supplemental benefits available for beneficiaries with an MA plan who have chronic diseases, provide support for more MA options for beneficiaries in rural communities, and expand access to MA for patients with End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD).

*May 22- [HHS Announces Nearly \\$4.9 Billion Distribution to Nursing Facilities Impacted by COVID-19](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is announcing it has begun distributing billions in additional relief funds to skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) to help them combat the devastating effects of this pandemic. Nursing homes play a pivotal role in providing skilled care to our nation's vulnerable seniors. During this pandemic, nursing homes have faced unique challenges as their population of high-risk seniors are more vulnerable to respiratory pathogens like COVID-19. This funding, which supplements previously [announced provider relief funds](#), will be used to support nursing homes suffering from significant expenses or lost revenue attributable to COVID-19.

*May 22- [HHS Announces \\$500 Million Distribution to Tribal Hospitals, Clinics, and Urban Health Centers](#). Today, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced \$500 million in payments from the Provider Relief Fund to the Indian Health Service (IHS) and tribal hospitals, clinics, and urban health centers to support the tribal response to COVID-19.

*May 22- [HHS Announces 45-Day Compliance Deadline Extension for Providers](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is announcing a 45 day deadline extension for providers who are receiving payments from the Provider Relief Fund to accept the Terms and Conditions for Provider Relief Fund payments. This announcement means providers have now

been granted 90 days from the date they received a payment to accept HHS Terms and Conditions or return the funds.

*May 26- [President Trump Announces Lower Out of Pocket Insulin Costs for Medicare's Seniors](#).

Today, under President Trump's leadership, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced that over 1,750 standalone Medicare Part D prescription drug plans and Medicare Advantage plans with prescription drug coverage have applied to offer lower insulin costs through the Part D Senior Savings Model for the 2021 plan year. Across the nation, participating enhanced Part D prescription drug plans will provide Medicare beneficiaries access to a broad set of insulins at a maximum \$35 copay for a month's supply, from the beginning of the year through the Part D coverage gap.

*May 28- [HHS Awards \\$15 Million to Combat the COVID-19 Pandemic in Rural Tribal Communities](#).

Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) awarded \$15 million to 52 Tribes, Tribal organizations, urban Indian health organizations, and other health services providers to Tribes across 20 states to prepare, prevent, and respond to COVID-19 in rural tribal communities.

Fact Sheet

*May 22- [Contract Year 2021 Medicare Advantage and Part D Final Rule \(CMS-4190-F1\) Fact Sheet](#). On May 22, 2020, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a final rule that implements a subset of the proposals from the February 18, 2020, proposed rule (85 FR 9002). This first final rule focuses on more immediate regulatory actions. The primary purpose of this first final rule is to implement certain changes before the contract year 2021 bid deadline (due by statute on the first Monday in June) stemming from the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (BBA of 2018) and the 21st Century Cures Act (Cures Act).

Blog

*May 21- [Understanding regular vs. emergency health care](#). It's almost always best to get routine care and recommended [preventive services](#) from a primary care provider. There are big differences between visits to your primary care provider and emergency care.

*May 26- [Coronavirus & Medicare enrollment: Get the coverage you need](#). To help stop the spread of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), many businesses have temporarily closed. If you recently stopped working or lost your health coverage through your job (or another person's job, like your spouse), you may qualify for a [Special Enrollment Period](#) to enroll in Medicare Part B (Medical Insurance).

Items of Interest

*CMS Office of Minority Health- Deadline Extended to Review and Comment on Rural Maternal Health Care. The deadline has been extended to submit comments to a Request for Information (RFI) to seek public comments regarding rural maternal and infant health care. To review the RFI, please visit go.cms.gov/ruralhealth. CMS encourages all stakeholders to review the RFI at go.cms.gov/ruralhealth and submit comments to RuralMaternalRFI@cms.hhs.gov. Comments will be collected until Sunday, May 31 at 11:59pm ET.

CMS has developed a [Virtual Toolkit](#) to help you stay informed on CMS and HHS materials available on the COVID-19. Please share these materials, bookmark the page, and check back often for the most up-to-date information.

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