



## CMS Snapshot

### September 2-9, 2021

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, September 2 through 2pm Thursday, September 9, 2021.

#### News Releases

\*September 7- [In Response to Hurricane Ida Public Health Emergency, CMS Announces Support for Residents of New Jersey and New York](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is announcing flexibilities being provided to ensure health care access continues for residents in New Jersey and New York impacted by Hurricane Ida. On September 3, 2021, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra [declared Public Health Emergencies \(PHEs\)](#) for New Jersey and New York, in addition to those in Louisiana and Mississippi.

\*September 7- [American Rescue Plan Provides States Additional Funding to Lower Health Coverage Costs, Increase Affordability for Americans](#). The Biden-Harris Administration is distributing an additional \$452 million in federal funding through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to support 13 states' efforts to improve access to affordable, comprehensive health insurance coverage through section 1332 state-based reinsurance waivers. As a result of changes made in the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP), residents in states implementing reinsurance waivers may have access to more affordable health insurance coverage.

\*September 9- [HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra Releases Bold Proposal to Lower Prescription Drug Costs](#). Today, Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra released a comprehensive plan to lower drug prices. The Drug Pricing Plan is part of a broader initiative stemming from President Joe Biden's [Executive Order on Promoting Competition in the American Economy](#), which also created the White House Competition Council tasked with coordinating, promoting, and advancing Federal Government efforts to address overconcentration, monopolization, and unfair competition in or directly affecting the American economy. The Report released by HHS is guided by the Administration's principles for equitable drug pricing reform through competition, innovation, and transparency.

\*September 9- [Biden-Harris Administration Awards Over \\$5 Million to Expand Services at HRSA's Health Center Program School-Based Service Sites](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) awarded over \$5 million to 27 HRSA-funded health centers to expand services at new or existing Health Center Program service delivery sites located at or on the grounds of a school. The awards were made through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

\*September 9- [Biden-Harris Administration to Expand Vaccination Requirements for Health Care Settings](#). The Biden-Harris Administration will require COVID-19 vaccination of staff within all Medicare and Medicaid-certified [facilities](#) to protect both them and patients from the virus and its more contagious Delta variant. Facilities across the country should make efforts now to get health care staff vaccinated to make sure they are in compliance when the rule takes effect.

## Blogs

\*September 9- [My First 100 Days and Where We Go From Here: A Strategic Vision for CMS](#). We've learned a lot during the COVID-19 pandemic on the ways access to comprehensive health care affects our lives and well-being. The availability of COVID-19 tests, vaccines, and treatments have saved millions of Americans from sickness and death – because the federal government stepped up to make sure that every person who needs COVID-related care has access to the care they need. But the challenge of the past 19 months has also put an incredible strain on our country's health care infrastructure and highlighted weaknesses and disparities that cry out for smart and innovative solutions.

\*September 9- [Recently moved? You may be able to enroll in or change Marketplace coverage](#). A change to your living place may qualify you for a [Special Enrollment Period](#), allowing you to change plans or enroll for the rest of 2021. Your next steps depend on if you moved to a different state or within the same one.

*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](mailto:partnership@cms.hhs.gov)*